

THE PINK

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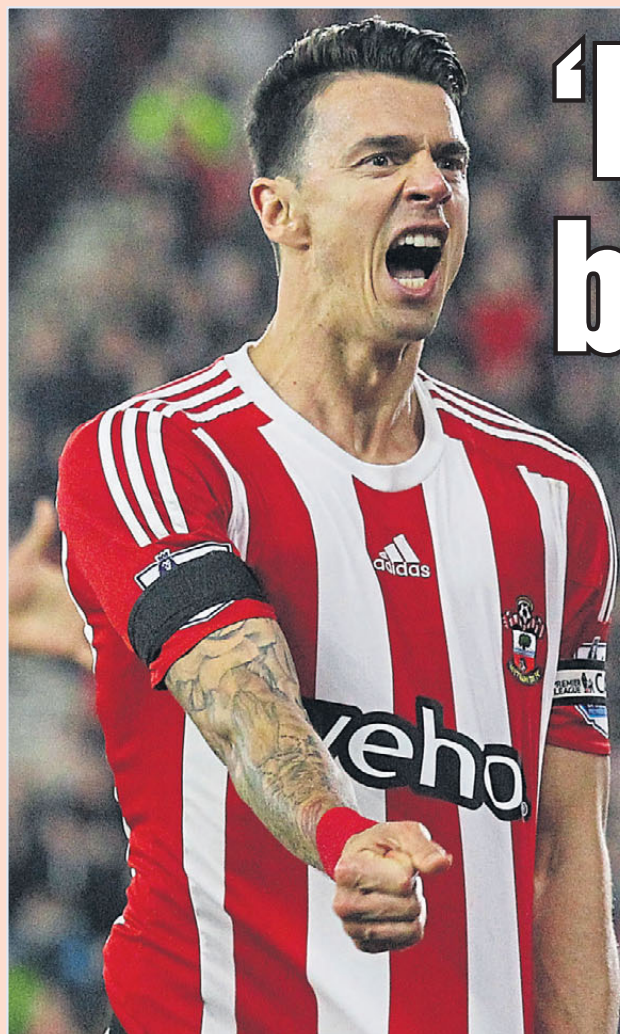
**Terry Paine
writes for you**
SAINTS LEGEND — PAGE 7

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SUPER SAINTS



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'It's going to be madness'

Fonte ready for more Premier League drama

JOSE Fonte believes that next season in the Premier League will be the most exciting EVER.

It was an unpredictable and enthralling campaign in the top-flight last season, with Leicester City running out shock champions, but Fonte is predicting more entertainment to come.

"It will be the most exciting season ever and not only do we have the Euros, which can be an amazing situation, we

also have the Premier League with Pep Guardiola coming, with Antonio Conte coming," he said.

"It's just going to be madness, with people buying players. It's going to be very competitive and I think it's the most important season ever in the Premier League."

Saints recorded their second successive best-ever Premier League finish last term, sealing qualification to the Europa League group stages.

It was some achievement,

but the 32-year-old is aiming to go further with the smell of silverware in the air.

"We want to win things," he said. "We want to win titles and trophies."

"We are obviously inspired by Leicester, everyone should be. So why not?"

"If they dream and they believe, why can't we not believe. Everyone needs to work hard and everything needs to come together for that to happen, but should be our target to emulate what Leicester did."

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Euro 2016 Championship preview ...

So, what will the Welsh and the Irish bring to the party?

EURO 2016 kicks off when hosts France take on Romania in Saint-Denis on June 10.

The European Championship will for the first time see 24 teams involved, with an expanded group stage and extra knock-out round before the quarter-finals.

Here, the Sports Pink takes a look at five talking points ahead of the show-piece tournament.

FOOTBALL STANDS UNITED

Security will be tighter than ever in and around all 10 host venues following the November 2015 terror attacks in Paris. Football's response was unanimous in the aftermath as the games went on, and remains so ahead of the start of the tournament. Just like the World Cup, the European Championship is meant to be a celebration of all things good about the beautiful game, both on and off the pitch. Fans, players and security staff alike will all be determined to make sure that continues.

ENGLAND EXPECTS AGAIN, BUT MAYBE NOT A LOT...

Usually when England head into any major tournament, the nation is whipped up into a frenzy, dreaming of finally ending the long wait for glory since 1966. This year, though, feels different. Perhaps it is the way Roy Hodgson and his squad have quietly gone about their business of rebuilding after a forgettable World Cup by qualifying with a perfect 10 record, which no matter the opposition is no mean feat. While there may be a touch more sense of realism around what can be achieved, you can bet if the Three Lions kick off with a win over Russia in Marseille, followed up by beating Wales in Lens, then it might just be time to dig out the St George bunting and car flags - if, of course, you can remember where you stashed them back in 2014....

CAN WALES FINALLY MAKE AN IMPACT ON THE BIG STAGE?

It has been a long, long wait for Wales to reach another major international tournament. Generations of undoubted talent have fallen short since the 1958 World Cup. While the current crop may depend too heavily on the influence of Real Madrid maestro Gareth Bale, there is no doubt Chris Coleman's well-drilled squad possess plenty of players capable of producing a collective performance needed to trouble any national team. Beating highly-rated Belgium, the group winners, 1-0 in Cardiff in June 2015 was a case in point. Wales will fancy their chances of getting off to a positive start against Slovakia, and to still be within a shout of making the knockout stages when they take on Russia in Toulouse after, of course, the small matter of a date with England....



Saints ace and Northern Ireland skipper Steven Davis, right, celebrates after his country qualified for Euro 2016.



The Wales team celebrate after reaching their first major finals since the 1958 World Cup.

JUST WHAT WILL NORTHERN IRELAND BRING TO THE PARTY?

There is little doubt the efforts of Northern Ireland were, along with Iceland, the story of the qualifiers. There will not have been too many who fancied the chances of Michael O'Neill's men to make an impact on a six-team group containing Romania, Hungary and Greece. Yet driven on by the goals of Kyle Lafferty, a strik-

er who could not even get a game at Norwich, it was Northern Ireland who finished top of the pile. While Germany, Poland and Ukraine might not exactly be quaking in their respective boots, Northern Ireland - led by Saints midfielder Steven Davis - should not be underestimated.

WILL THE EURO EXPANSION WORK?

While welcoming more nations into the European Championship finals may have opened the door to the likes of Albania and Iceland, from a purely footballing point of view, the tournament might take a while to get going. We will just have to wait and see whether fixtures like Switzerland versus Albania or Hungary against Iceland capture the imagination.

Stars to watch at Euro 2016

Europe's finest go head to head in France this summer, starting on June 10.

Here, the Sports Pink picks out 10 players to watch at Euro 2016.

CRISTIANO RONALDO (PORTUGAL)

Other than convince the footballing world he is better than Lionel Messi, there is little Ronaldo has not achieved on an individual basis. The Real Madrid forward has been named FIFA's world player of the year three times and his five goals in qualifying made him the leading scorer in European Championship history. Has broken the 50-goal barrier in the last six seasons at Real Madrid, and about the only thing he has not managed in his celebrated career is to win a major international tournament with Portugal.

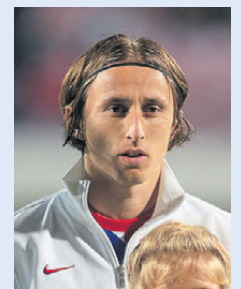
GARETH BALE (WALES)

Almost single-handedly guided Wales into their first major tournament in more than 50 years. Ex-Saints starlet Bale, the world's most expensive player, scored seven of Wales' 11 goals in qualifying and also claimed two assists. Scored 19 goals in 23 league appearances for Real Madrid this season. No stranger to the big occasion, netted a stunning winner in the 2014 Copa del Rey final against Barcelona, and also scored Real's decisive goal in the Champions League final victory in the same year.

LUKA MODRIC (CROATIA)

There was a time when it was suggested Modric's slight frame would stop him from fulfilling his potential, especially when he moved to the hurly-burly of the Premier League by joining Tottenham in 2008. But those days have long gone and the Croatia playmaker has become one of Real Madrid's most consistent performers in recent seasons. Modric has the ability to thread balls through the eye of a needle. A joy to watch.

Continued on facing



Luka Modric (Croatia).

Euro 2016 Championship preview ...

Leicester's success story offers new hope to Hodgson

HOPE rather expectation is the overriding emotion as England look to make their mark at Euro 2016.

Yet Leicester's fairy-tale campaign offers tantalising proof of what can be achieved when a group of talented players buys into a philosophy.

Roy Hodgson is perhaps fortunate to this summer be approaching his third major tournament in charge of the country of his birth after things unravelled so spectacularly at the World Cup two years ago.

Failing to win a match in Brazil did not cost the widely-travelled 68-year-old his job, though, and the Football Association's calculated gamble has seemingly paid off.

Hodgson has gone about replacing much of the old guard with a fresh, young core, while simultaneously securing impressive results and England's passage to Euro 2016 with the only 100 per cent record in qualification.

Overcoming the likes of Estonia and San Marino is, admittedly, hardly a yardstick with which to measure serious progress, but they did their job manfully having overcome their toughest opponent in their opening match.

Danny Welbeck's brace secured that 2-0 win in Switzerland, a side then ranked 11 places higher in the world rankings, on September 8, 2014 - a time when promoted Leicester were still looking for their first win back in the Premier League.

Unthinkable

A lot has changed in the subsequent 20 months - with the Foxes' dramatic fight against the drop followed by an unthinkable rise to the title - providing Hodgson with a remarkable touchstone for upsetting the odds.

"I don't want the players to be fearful, I don't want the players to be weighed down by expectations or thoughts of what might happen if they don't succeed," the England manager said upon announcing his initial 26-man squad.

"We've seen this year the example with Leicester City: weeks and weeks turning into months and months of how long can this last? Is it all going to crack up?"

"Can you really make the Champions League?"

"Can you finish above this team or that team?"

"Can you win the league?"

"Each time what they've done is work hard, try hard and tried to make certain going into each game they're capable of winning it. That's all we can do as well."

"It's happened in the past. Nobody expected Denmark to win it in '92; nobody expected Greece to win the Euros (in 2004); no one expected Leicester to win the league."

Odds of 5,000-1 underlined just how unlikely the triumph masterminded by Claudio Ranieri was, with Leicester's story acting as perhaps that little extra slither of belief required for



Leicester City's incredible title win shows dreams can come true in football



Jamie Vardy will be aiming for another footballing fairytale at Euro 2016, and so will his manager Roy Hodgson, above.



the national team.

Out of the 24 teams heading to France, bookmakers make England fourth favourites for the crown - little surprise given they beat hosts France in November and second favourites Germany two months ago.

Hodgson's men showed no little attitude and aptitude in securing that 3-2 comeback win in the world champions' backyard, bringing a feel-good factor back to the national team.

Questions still linger over defensive strength, captain Wayne Rooney's role and the impact of inexperience,

but there is at least some hope after the disastrous 2014 World Cup.

Whether they have enough to end 50 years of hurt remains to be seen, but the Three Lions only need to look to the Foxes for inspiration of upsetting the odds.

Euro 2016 in numbers

24 - teams that will take part in the tournament.

10 - French cities that will host games.

6 - groups teams will play in.

4 - teams in each group.

31 - days the tournament will last for.

51 - games that will be played in the tournament.

2 - times host nation France have been crowned European champions.

18 - referees appointed for the tournament.

14 - European Championship that have previously been held, including the inaugural competition in 1960.

23 - players in each competing nation's squad.

Ten stars to watch

from facing page

HARRY KANE (ENGLAND)

The Tottenham striker only made his international debut in March 2015 but he has increasingly looked the part for club and country and capable of leading the England front line for many years to come.

Does not possess blistering pace, but is brave and finds space by making intelligent runs and is strong in possession and good in the air.

Scoring record at Spurs, 64 goals in 127 appearances, marks him out as a natural finisher and does not panic when he gets the chance in front of goal.

ROMELU LUKAKU (BELGIUM)

First came to prominence at Anderlecht in 2009-10 when he was the top scorer in Belgium's top division as a teenager.

Never got the chance to build his career at Chelsea, but he has blossomed at Everton where 45 goals in two seasons have justified his £28million transfer fee.

Quick and powerful, he has the strength to hold off the most physical of defenders and convert chances. The 23-year-old scored only once at the 2014 World Cup, but he has matured since and could be the key to leading Belgium's so-called 'Golden Generation' to greatness.

GIANLUIGI BUFFON (ITALY)

Aficionados of goalkeeping will look no further than Italy's shot-stopper. It is more than 20 years since Buffon made his debut for Parma and the longevity of his career means he will be remembered as one of the goalkeeping greats.

Even at the age of 38, the Juventus number one was breaking records this year when he went 973 minutes without conceding a goal in Serie A.

Buffon, who first appeared for Italy in 1997 and helped them win the 2006 World Cup, remains pivotal to the Azzurri's hopes of basking in Euro 2016 glory.

● More stars to watch in Euro 2016 on page 4.



Romelu Lukaku (Belgium)

Euro 2016 - the stars to watch out for

from page 3

PAUL POGBA (FRANCE)

Manchester United fans still wake up in a cold sweat thinking about how Pogba was allowed to leave Old Trafford in 2012 and join Juventus. Since then the 23-year-old has developed into a colossus and one of the most wanted midfielders in the world. Pogba has the power and pace to get beyond opposition defences and has extraordinary touch and vision.

ZLATAN IBRAHIMOVIC (SWEDEN)

The only player in the tournament able to match Ronaldo for ego and self-confidence. The striker is 34 now but there appears to be no sign of his outrageous talent diminishing. Ibrahimovic scored 11 goals in qualifying and averages better than a goal every two games in international football. Goes into Euro 2016 on the back of winning yet another domestic title at Paris St Germain, having declared that the tournament taking place without him would have been "unthinkable".

ROBERT LEWANDOWSKI



Paul Pogba will be desperate to help France win on home soil.

(POLAND)

Lewandowski is a classic number nine who has the ability to change the game in an instant with unerring finishing and a complete all-round game. Made his name at Borussia Dortmund under Jurgen Klopp and has not looked back since joining Bayern Munich. The 27-year-old has scored 66 goals in his two seasons in Bavaria and has become used to the art of winning. Welcomes the pressure of being Poland's main man as he averages a goal every other games for his country, but needs an impressive tournament to underline his reputation.

THOMAS MULLER (GERMANY)

The master poacher has spent his entire career at Bayern Munich and has won most of the top prizes in world football. Part of Bayern's Champions League-winning side in 2013, he has excelled for Germany when the pressure has been on.

Claimed the Golden Boot at the 2010 World Cup with five goals and lifted the trophy in Brazil four years later. What he lacks in trickery, he makes up for being in the right place at the right time.

Team-by-team guide

GROUP A

ALBANIA

Coach: Gianni De Biasi
Star man: Lorik Cana
Tournament best: Never qualified
Albania will play in a major finals for the first time in their history having slotted in ahead of Denmark and Serbia to finish runners-up in a qualifying group topped by Portugal. They beat Cristiano Ronaldo and company in their own backyard while Group A foes France were defeated in a friendly last June.

FRANCE

Coach: Didier Deschamps
Star man: Antoine Griezmann
Tournament best: Winners 1984, 2000
Eighteen years on from a World Cup triumph on home soil, the hosts boast a talented squad and should start as pre-tournament favourites. They could be unstoppable going forward if Griezmann, Paul Pogba and Anthony Martial can continue their exploits. Three group-stage exits in the past seven major tournaments shows they can implode, though.

ROMANIA

Coach: Anghel Iordanescu
Star man: Razvan Rat
Tournament best: Quarter-finals 2000
Went unbeaten through the qualification process, conceding just twice and scoring 11 as they won five and drew five to finish second behind Northern Ireland. They will hope that resolute streak continues, particularly in the tournament's curtain-raiser against France, when they will aim to be Paris party poopers.

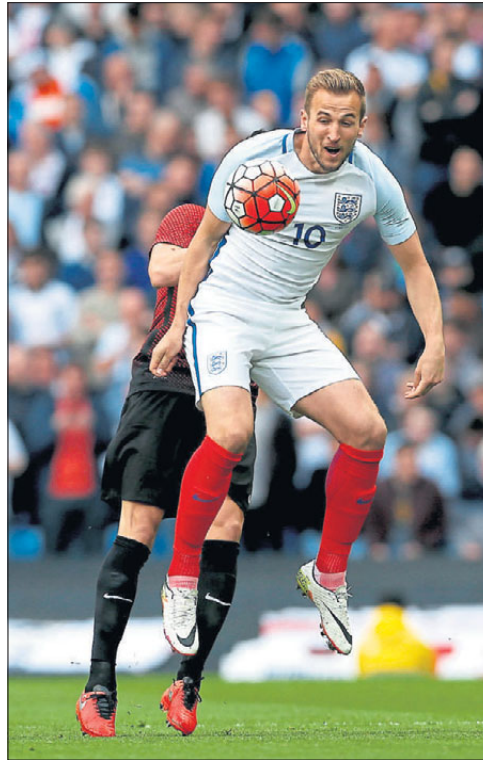
SWITZERLAND

Coach: Vladimir Petkovic
Star man: Xherdan Shaqiri
Tournament best: Group stages 1996, 2004, 2008
Made it as runners-up in England's weak group despite losing their opening two contests, and the aim will be to reach the last 16 for the first time. The Swiss possess talented individuals in Xherdan Shaqiri and Granit Xhaka, though lack a true goal-scorer after their 24 qualification goals were shared between 14 players.

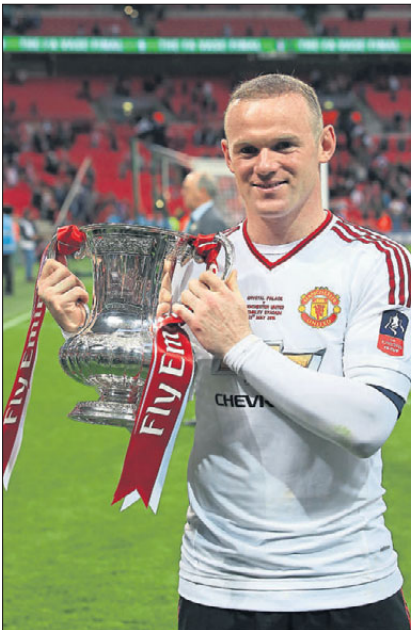
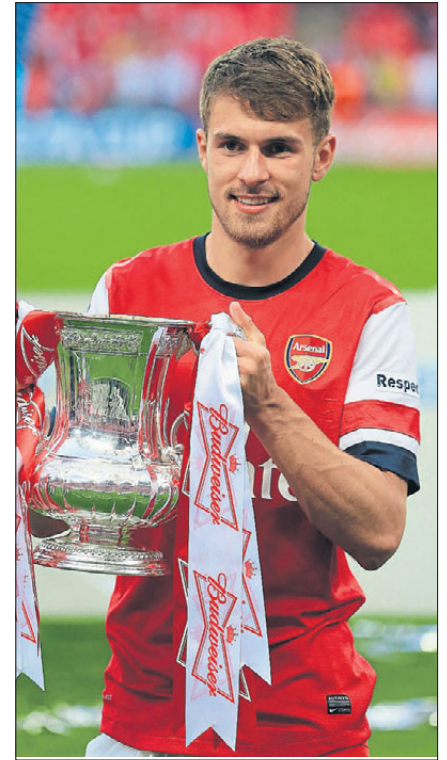
GROUP B

ENGLAND

Coach: Roy Hodgson
Star man: Harry Kane
Tournament best: Semi-finals 1968, 1996
Recent failures may have curbed expectation, yet Hodgson's team blitzed through qualification with-



Key figures from north London - England's Harry Kane (Tottenham) and Wales' Aaron Ramsey (Arsenal).



Wayne Rooney and Gareth Bale could be talismanic figures for their countries in France over the next few weeks.



out dropping a point. As well as defensive concerns, there are selection dilemmas, including whether all-time leading scorer Wayne Rooney should be accommodated. However, the exciting attacking options at Hodgson's disposal at least gives England dark-horse status.

RUSSIA

Coach: Leonid Slutsky
Star man: Artem Dzyuba
Tournament best: Semi-finals 2008 (The Soviet Union won the tournament in 1960)
It looked unlikely that Russia

would even be in France after they took eight points from their opening six games before Slutsky replaced Fabio Capello and guided them to four straight victories. They will want to impress ahead of hosting the 2018 World Cup and will have a place in the knock-outs on

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e to the Euro 2016



Saints midfielder Steven Davis, left, and Kyle Lafferty will be key men for Northern Ireland in their country's first major international tournament for 30 years.



Poland's Robert Lewandowski and France's Anthony Martial could be among the goals at Euro 2016.



their agenda having being transformed under Slutsky.

SLOVAKIA

Coach: Jan Kozak
Star man: Marek Hamsik
Tournament best: Never qualified (Czechoslovakia won the tournament in 1976)

Won their opening six games in qualification and beat Spain at home back in October 2014, before stumbling over the line with a first European Championship finals place in sight. They have match-winners in their midfield in Napoli's Hamsik and former Manchester City man Vladimir Weiss.

England should be wary as they eliminated defending champions Italy at the 2010 World Cup.

WALES

Coach: Chris Coleman
Star man: Gareth Bale

Tournament best: Never qualified
Finally back in tournament football after a 58-year wait since the 1958 World Cup in Sweden. In Real Madrid's Bale, the world's most expensive player, Wales have a superstar with a useful sidekick in Aaron Ramsey. Plenty of hype surrounds the England fixture but the opening game versus Slovakia may decide their fate.

GROUP C

GERMANY

Coach: Joachim Low
Star man: Thomas Muller
Tournament best: Winners 1972*, 1980*, 1996 (*as West Germany)
Aiming to follow recent winners France and Spain with a World Cup-European Championships double having beaten Argentina in Brazil two summers ago. Captain Philipp Lahm has since retired, his replacement Bastian Schweinsteiger is on the wane and a recent home loss to England raised question marks. But they always save their best for tournament-time.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Coach: Michael O'Neill
Star man: Steven Davis
Tournament best: Never qualified
Heading on a maiden Euros voyage, with their most recent World Cup finals appearance coming in 1986. They topped their qualifying group, though, and have embarked on a record-breaking 10-match unbeaten run thanks to the enhanced belief O'Neill has helped foster. While defensively sound, they need Kyle Lafferty to produce again up top.

POLAND

Coach: Adam Nawalka
Star man: Robert Lewandowski
Tournament best: Group stages 2008, 2012
Like Wales, Portugal and Sweden, Poland possess a world-class player who they will largely pin their hopes on. Bayern Munich striker Lewandowski struck 13 times, more than anyone else, in qualifying, when the Poles recorded a long-awaited victory over Germany. A first last-16 berth is the goal.

UKRAINE

Coach: Mykhaylo Fomenko
Star man: Andriy Yarmolenko
Tournament best: Group stages 2012
Finally made it through the play-offs at the sixth time of asking with victory over Slovenia over two legs. Both Dynamo Kiev playmaker Yarmolenko and tricky Sevilla winger Yevhen Konoplyanka can unlock defences when in the mood and the last 16 will be their target, even if it is a meeting with the world champions up first. **Cont on page 6**

The biggest Euro party of all time ...

FOR the first time in 58 years four representatives from the British Isles will be at a major tournament - and Euro 2016 promises to be quite the party.

France will this summer play host to 24 nations and 51 matches between June 10 and the winner lifting the trophy to a background of ticker tape and fireworks at the Stade de France on July 10.

It will be the biggest European Championship of all-time, with more teams and more matches than ever as a large chunk of UEFA's membership make the most of the bloated format.

World Cup semi-finalists Holland failed to make the finals as smaller nations proved more competitive than ever, with Iceland, Albania and Slovakia reaching the finals for the first time.

They are joined by fellow European Championship debutants Northern Ireland and Wales, whose appearance along with the Republic of Ireland and England makes this the first tournament since the 1958 World Cup in which these Isles have had four representatives.

England head to France looking to make amends for their embarrassing World Cup exit two years ago and their 100 per cent qualification record suggests they can do just that.



Michael O'Neill's Northern Ireland are 500-1 outsiders

The recent 3-2 comeback win against Germany has seen that optimism swell and bookmakers make them fourth favourites for the crown, behind the hosts, world champions Germany and holders Spain.

Wales will not make things easy for Hodgson's men in Group B, though.

Through to their first major finals since 1958, anything is possible when you are able to call on a player with the outrageous talent of ex-Saint Gareth Bale.

The Battle of Britain in the tiny city of Lens on June 16 promises to be fascinating, so too how the Republic fares in the so-called Group of Death.

Pitted against Belgium, Italy and Sweden, progressing out of Group E looks a tough ask.

However, Martin O'Neill's men are not just going out there to make up the numbers, having followed the remarkable 1-0 group win against Germany by winning their play-off against Bosnia.

The Republic are a 150-1 shot for Euro 2016 glory, while Northern Ireland are considered the least likely challengers for the crown.

Odds of 500-1 highlight what a task Michael O'Neill's side face in their major tournament appearance in 30 years.

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Is this time for Belgium's golden generation to shine on big stage?

from page 5

GROUP D

CROATIA

Coach: Ante Cacic

Star man: Luka Modric

Tournament best: Quarter-finals 1996, 2008

A fourth successive appearance in the European Championship finals shows there has been a steady stream of talent emerging in recent years. La Liga trio Modric, Ivan Rakitic and Mateo Kovacic can control games in midfield and striker Mario Mandzukic has always been prolific.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Coach: Pavel Vrba

Star man: Petr Cech

Tournament best: Runners-up 1996 (Czechoslovakia won the tournament in 1976)

The class of 2016 may lack a Pavel Nedved or Euro 2004 golden boot winner Milan Baros, but they did top a qualifying group that featured Holland and Group B opponents Turkey. There is plenty of experience in Vrba's squad and they advanced to the quarter-finals only four years ago.

SPAIN

Coach: Vicente del Bosque

Star man: Andres Iniesta

Tournament best: Winners 1964, 2008, 2012

La Roja are back-to-back defending champions and Sergio Ramos, Iniesta, David Silva and Cesc Fabregas all remain after starting the final eight years ago, although a pathetic attempt at defending their World Cup crown, when they were hammered 5-1 by Holland en route to a group-stage exit in 2014, showed that Spain's golden generation may have lost their sheen.

TURKEY

Coach: Fatih Terim

Star man: Arda Turan

Tournament best: Semi-finals 2008

Enthralled the continent with their late-goal heroics at Euro 2008, when a team featuring Turan and managed by Terim scored last-gasp strikes in three successive matches in a run to the semi-finals. Interestingly enough, the Czechs and Croatia were the two nations they eliminated and Turkey will hope some mental scars remain.

GROUP E

BELGIUM

Coach: Marc Wilmots

Star man: Kevin De Bruyne

Tournament best: Runners-up 1980

A star-studded team failed to truly live up to their billing at the World Cup. Eden Hazard and Christian Benteke have had disappointing club campaigns and they are shorn of injured centre-back Vincent Kompany. Nevertheless, Wilmots' squad will be the envy of most international managers and they have a chance to win it all.

ITALY

Coach: Antonio Conte

Star man: Leonardo Bonucci

Tournament best: Winners 1968



Zlatan Ibrahimovic, centre, celebrates winning the French League title with Paris SG. How much will he have to celebrate at the Euros?



Kevin De Bruyne (Belgium) and Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal).



nine of their 10 fixtures. Leicester's title-winning full-back Christian Fuchs is captain, Bayern's Alaba their key man, while Stoke's Marko Arnautovic arrives in fine fettle.

HUNGARY

Coach: Bernd Storck

Star man: Balazs Dzsudzsak

Tournament best: Semi-finals 1964, 1972

Twice World Cup finalists, Hungary are back in the finals of a tournament after a 30-year absence, an even more remarkable achievement considering they had three managers during qualifying. Plenty of their players, such as 40-year-old goalkeeper Gabor Kiraly, Zoltan Gera and Tamas Priskin, will be familiar to English fans following their stints on these shores.

ICELAND

Coaches: Lars Lagerback and Heimur Hallgrimsson

Star man: Gylfi Sigurdsson

Tournament best: Never qualified

Iceland are another first-time qualifier for a major tournament, having lost a play-off with Croatia to determine who went to the 2014 World Cup. They have plenty of pedigree, with ex-Chelsea and Barcelona forward Eidur Gudjohnsen and Sigurdsson in their ranks, while co-manager Lagerback took Sweden to three European Championships.

PORTUGAL

Coach: Fernando Santos

Star man: Cristiano Ronaldo

Tournament best: Runners-up 2004

Portugal will again heavily lean on the brilliance of record scorer Ronaldo. However, the next generation could be ready to blossom next month too, with William Carvalho, Joao Mario and recent Bayern Munich acquisition Renato Sanches ones to watch.

SWEDEN

Coach: Erik Hamren

Star man: Zlatan Ibrahimovic

Tournament best: Semi-finals 1992

Dragged to France by the talismanic Ibrahimovic, who scored 11 of their 19 goals in qualification - three of which came in a two-legged play-off win over Denmark. This is likely to be the 34-year-old's final act on the international circuit and he is sure to steal the show, one way or another.

GROUP F

AUSTRIA

Coach: Marcel Koller

Star man: David Alaba

Tournament best: Group stage 2008

Were unbeaten in qualification and won

Perhaps one of the weakest Azzurri squads to have gone to a major tournament, this is still a well-drilled, defensively-sound unit that can reach the latter stages, even if it is lacking attacking panache. Manager Conte has already stated he is leaving for Chelsea after this tournament and it will be interesting to see how that affects his team.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Coach: Martin O'Neill

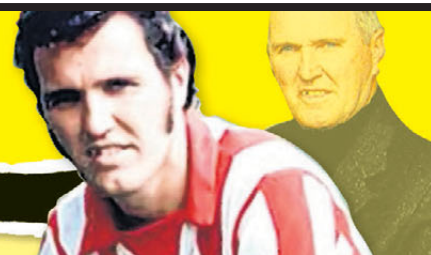
Star man: Robbie Keane

Tournament: Group stages 1988, 2012

Four years ago under Giovanni Trapattoni the Republic slumped to three defeats in a difficult group, scoring once and conceding nine. They have been drawn alongside tough opponents once more, yet they will take heart from the fact they took four points in two contests with Germany in qualification.

Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football



A transition mission for Mr Brown's Bhoys

IN CELTIC'S 128-year history there have been 30 men who have had the honour of representing the Bhoys as club captain, and only one other has won more trophies than Scott Brown in the role.

While a long way from matching the legendary leader Billy McNeill, who won 23 major trophies as Celtic captain, there is no denying that Brown's impact on Celtic's recent history has been momentous.

The eight trophies lifted by Brown since Tony Mowbray gave him the armband in 2010 represent the dominance Celtic have had on the game in Scotland over the last half decade. No one at the club has typified the desire to win, swagger, confidence and success more than the midfielder.

Yet there are often doubters. Accused by some supporters of lacking the technical ability required to play in midfield for Celtic and with injuries taking their toll on him over the years, some have questioned whether he'll be in Brendan Rodgers' plans in the coming season.

Most of those doubts come from the very start of Brown's Celtic career. After a much-hyped transfer from Hibernian in 2007, thought to be worth £4.4m, many Celtic fans expected fireworks from him. For years the thinking was: "He's alright, but is he worth the money?"

Despite being a mainstay in the starting XI for years, it wasn't until Neil Lennon took charge of Celtic that supporters began to understand Brown's true value to the team. When it was going poorly on the pitch, Scott Brown sorted things out, often dragging his team forward at their lowest ebb – the physical embodiment of the drive, determination and thunder that Lennon brought back to Celtic Park.

A goal at Ibrox and a famous celebration in the face of El Hadji Diouf cemented him as a fans' favourite after four years of trying. After that 'Broony' was the main man at Celtic. It's since that moment that all eight of the trophies he's lifted as captain have come.

He has only become more and more important to the performance of his teammates. When he's injured the lack of spirit in Celtic performances is notable. He missed key qualifiers in Ronny Deila's first season that resulted in a Champions League exit and this season he missed three crucial group games in the Europa League resulting in another misfiring campaign.

Those injury problems have been a worry for Celtic supporters for years. This season he missed 21 Celtic games, five other midfielders making more appearances than him over the campaign. Even when available he's often not 100 per cent, recently revealing he's been playing through the



Scott Brown

pain barrier and suffering from tendonitis in his hamstrings. Can he still be the main man under Brendan Rodgers? If anyone thinks the answer to that question is no then they've failed to tell Rodgers himself.

Confirming that Scott Brown would be a key member of his squad Rodgers said: "Scott is a real warrior and he will stay captain here, 150 per cent."

The benefits he brings the new manager are obvious.

Rodgers has a pedigree of getting the best out of established players at a club. Steven Gerrard gave some vintage performances for Liverpool at the highest level well into his thirties. With a period of prolonged rest,

Brown is well placed to finally put injury worries behind him and recapture the best of his Celtic form.

Off the pitch there are benefits too. He's now played under four Celtic managers and will offer valuable experience in how to tackle transition in a Celtic dressing room. The transition has to be as smooth as butter if the Bhoys are going to qualify for the Champions League this summer.

His knowledge of Celtic's young players is also unparalleled. He's been helping out with the coaching of Celtic's development squad for over eighteen months and can give fantastic insight to Rodgers on how they can potentially fit into the first-team set-up.

Critics are quick to weigh in on Scott Brown but his record at Celtic speaks for itself. Not only will he continue to be the main man, he'll become an even more integral part of the Hoops. Even if performances on the pitch do begin to slip, his coaching ambition and pride in representing Celtic will come to the fore and take him to new heights.

When once linked with a move away from Celtic Park, he famously said: "I'm captain of Celtic Football Club, why would I even think about going anywhere else?"

It's the kind of attitude that separates your average club captain from a captain that achieves historic success.

Bassong has familiar drop feeling again!

NORWICH'S relegation from the Barclays Premier League may have brought heartbreak to many Canaries fans - but it was a familiar feeling for Sebastien Bassong.

The Cameroon defender has suffered a remarkable six demotions in the past decade, and four from England's top flight since 2009.

Here, the Sports Pink picks a not-so-dream team of players who also have an unwanted record when it comes to relegation.

Goalkeeper - Rob Green (four relegations)

Former England keeper Green got his taste for relegation way back in 2005 with Norwich before West Ham finished bottom of the Premier League in 2011. A move to QPR did not improve his fortune with further heartbreak suffered at the Hoops in 2013 and 2015.

Defender - Marc Edworthy (four)

Another four-time victim, Edworthy set the wheels in motion in 1998 when Crystal Palace finished bottom of the Premier League, with demotions at Ipswich in 2002 and Leicester in 2004 following. Derby's dreadful demise in 2008 - 11 points in the season remains the lowest in Premier League history -



Sebastien Bassong, left, with Saints striker Shane Long.

capped his tally.

Defender - Sebastien Bassong (six)

The Cameroon international was relegated twice from Ligue 1 with Metz and once with Newcastle in 2009 during his only season on Tyneside. A loan from Tottenham to Wolves the following campaign did little to ease his woe as the Molineux outfit fell out of the top flight. Two relegations with Norwich, in 2014 and 2016, bring the 29-year-old's total to six.

Defender - Hermann Hreidarsson (five)

Hreidarsson shares the dubious honour of being the most relegated player in Premier League history with Nathan Blake - more on him later - with five top-flight exits to his name. The Iceland international was a team-mate of Edworthy at Palace in 1998 and at Ipswich four years later. He also managed to come a cropper at Wimbledon in 2000, Charlton in 2007 and Portsmouth in 2010.

Defender - Tal Ben Haim (four)

Versatile defender Ben Haim was also on Pompey's books in 2010.

Cont on facing page

All the heroes and v

TOM Brooks looks back over the 2015/16 Premier League season, and picks his own heroes and villains.

AFC Bournemouth

Tipped by everyone to fail miserably in their first ever season in the top flight. However, they proved a lot of people wrong with manager Eddie Howe getting his side to play a lovely style of attacking football mixed with Barcelona-esque passing.

Best player: Matt Ritchie - Was one of Bournemouth's standout players, along with centre back Steve Cook. However, Ritchie gets the nod due to the fact that he has assisted six goals and scored four. His performances also led to him gaining caps for Scotland.

Worst player: This is a hard one. But if I had to give it to someone, it would be Juan Manuel Iturbe. The Argentinian arrived in January on loan from AS Roma, and with so much hype surrounding him he was destined for failure from the start. He made two sub appearances in the Premier league, and failed to make any impact whatsoever.

Best result: Chelsea 0-1 AFC Bournemouth - A phenomenal all-round display gave them a memorable win over champions Chelsea. Glenn Murray's 82nd minute strike will go down in Dorset folklore.

Worst result: AFC Bournemouth 0-1 Newcastle - Newcastle's Rob Elliot was the only reason Bournemouth didn't win this game. A woeful display in front of goal from Bournemouth who had 20 shots compared to Newcastle's two. Season rating: 8/10 - AFC Bournemouth have proved to be an excellent addition to the Premier League, showing that they are no pushover. They will be hoping to push on even further next season.

Arsenal

Champions League football was secured for a record 17th season in a row.

Best player: Mesut Özil - Arguably the best player in the Premier League up until the New Year as he assisted 15 goals and also bagged three. However, his form in 2016 has not been as great, as he has only assisted three and scored once.

Worst player: Kieran Gibbs - The England left back was limited to only three starts this season, compared to the 18 he had last season. However, he did make 12 sub appearances, but failed to make an impact.

Best result: Arsenal 2-1 Leicester - Danny Welbeck scored a last minute header that blew the title race wide open. Only two points separated Leicester, Tottenham and Arsenal at this stage.

Worst result: Arsenal 4-0 Arsenal - Arsenal had lost just one of their previous 11 games, and Saints were struggling, but two goals from Shane Long, a header from Jose



Jose Fonte celebrates scoring for Saints in their 4-0 thrashing of Arsenal. Willian, above right top, impressed for Chelsea - but Eden Hazard, above right, was a big disappointment.



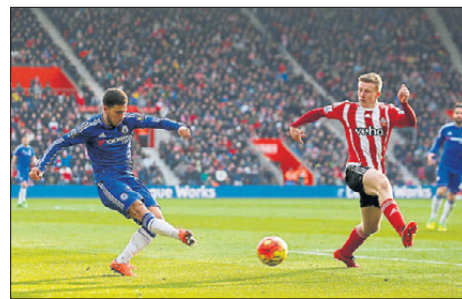
AFC Bournemouth pair Matt Ritchie (left) and Steve Cook, above right, were two of Cherries' stand-out performers.

Fonte and a stunning goal from Cuco Martina rounded up one of the shocks of the season.

Season rating: 8/10 - Showed potential at the beginning of the season, but didn't have the consistency (yet again) to challenge for the title that they haven't won since the 2003/04 season.

Aston Villa

After beating Bournemouth on the opening day, Villa failed to win another game until the middle of January when they defeated Crystal Palace 1-0. That was also their



first league win at home since May 2015. Their relegation to the Championship was inevitable, especially when French manager Remi Garde left by mutual consent, after only five months in charge.

Best player: Idrissa Gueye - The Senegalese midfielder shone in a woeful Villa team thanks to his pinpoint passing and his hard tackling.

Worst player: Gabriel Agbonlahor - There are so many Villa players that I could easily give this to, but Agbonlahor pips everyone else. Villa's current longest serving player

only scored one goal in his 15 Premier League games this season. He was then dropped due to fears that he had put on too much weight and that he was not in shape.

Best result: Bournemouth 0-1 Aston Villa - An opening day victory set fans up for a good season, but sadly this is as good as it got.

Worst result: All 26 losses - Any team that only manages three wins all season deserves to be relegated.

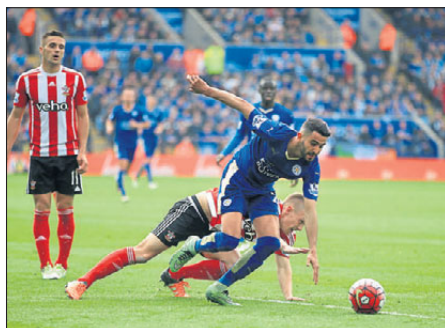
Season rating: 1/10 - The quality of players at the club is not up to Premier League standard, so the Championship should prove a bet-

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illains of 2015/16



Leicester's Wes Morgan, above left, Jamie Vardy, above right top, and Riyad Mahrez, above right.



Crystal Palace's Yohan Cabaye celebrates with Yannick Bolasie after scoring the winner against Saints. Above right - Everton's top scorer Romelu Lukaku.

ter place for Villa to rebuild what once was a great club.

Chelsea

What an absolute disaster their season was. They went from champions the season before to a laughing stock. They managed to win only three of their opening 12 games, which left them just three points off of the relegation zone. This then led to Jose Mourinho's departure, with Guus Hiddink taking charge until the end of the season. The club then went on a 15 game unbeaten run in the league,

but this did nothing in their quest to qualify for Europe.

Best player: Willian – The Brazilian winger was the only Chelsea player to perform consistently, with players such as Oscar and Nemanja Matic failing to perform at their usual high standards. Willian assisted six and scored five goals in the Premier league alongside a further five goals in the Champions League.

Worst player: Eden Hazard – Last year's PFA Player of the Year had possibly the worst season of his life. The Belgian winger went exactly a year without scoring in the

Premier League, before his double in a 4-1 victory against AFC Bournemouth.

Best result: Doing the double over Arsenal – Chelsea managed to beat Arsenal 2-0 at home courtesy of Kurt Zouma's header and Callum Chambers' own goal. The 1-0 victory in the return fixture was won thanks to a Diego Costa goal.

Worst result: Manchester City doing the double over them – and both times 3-0. Aguero hit a hat trick at Stamford Bridge in the second match.

Season rating: 3/10 – A dreadful term from a team that so much was

expected of. Perhaps the negative vibes from Jose Mourinho hindered their season.

Crystal Palace

Inconsistent is the word to describe Crystal Palace this season. Their best win streak was two, so they didn't have the consistency to challenge for a top half finish. One of their only positives was reaching the FA Cup final.

Best player: Yohan Cabaye – After joining from PSG in the summer, Cabaye lit Selhurst Park up with some dazzling displays.

Worst player: Mile Jedinak – Didn't make much of an impact defensively, with Scott Dann taking most of the plaudits for Palace's strong defensive performances.

Best result: Liverpool 1-2 Palace – Scott Dann scored a late header, after Yannick Bolasie had earlier put the Eagles in front. Philippe Coutinho replied.

Worst result: Aston Villa 1-0 Crystal Palace – Lost to Villa. Say no more.

Season rating: 6/10 – Palace will be hoping to show more consistency next season. Alan Pardew will need to strengthen his squad a fair bit if they want to be competitive.

Everton

Possibly one of Roberto Martinez's worst seasons as a manager and it ended in him getting the sack. They were tipped to finish in the top six, but many players under-performed for the majority of the season. Only Romelu Lukaku and Ross Barkley showed any promise.

Best player: Romelu Lukaku – The Belgian striker scored 18 Premier League goals and would have been level on points with Newcastle without them.

Worst player: Kevin Mirallas – Was somewhat isolated out on the wing, which led to him only featuring in 21 matches, with 13 of those coming off the bench.

Best result: West Brom 2-3 Everton – The Toffees were 2-0 down with 35 minutes remaining.

Worst result: Liverpool 4-0 Everton – An embarrassing performance, in which Everton could hardly string two passes together.

Season rating: 5/10 – So much more was expected, but inconsistency proved to be their downfall.

Leicester City

Where do I begin? Produced the greatest shock in Premier League history. Claudio Ranieri had his critics when he was appointed, but now no one can question his ability. You can't forget the players, though, as N'Golo Kante, Riyad Mahrez and Jamie Vardy were all nominated for the PFA Player of the Year award and named in the PFA Team of the Year, alongside captain Wes Morgan.

Continued on page 10

Ex-Saint Nige no stranger to relegation

From facing page

and it began a slippery slope for the Israel international. The very next season he spent time at West Ham, who went down, then re-signed for Portsmouth who, you guessed it, flopped back into the second tier. Four relegations in a row for Ben Haim was 'achieved' at QPR in 2013.

Midfielder - Nigel Quashie (four)
Former Scotland international Quashie began his professional career with relegation at QPR in 1996, so it will come as little surprise that he became a specialist. He went on to suffer the drop in his debut seasons with Nottingham Forest (1999), Saints (2005) and West Brom (2006).

Midfielder - Carlton Palmer (five)
West Brom were relegated with Palmer in the side in 1986 and Sheffield Wednesday followed suit in 1990. Palmer was also part of the Nottingham Forest squad which crashed into the second tier during his only season at the City Ground in 1999. The former England international was also part of the Coventry side to suffer the club's first relegation in 43 years in 2001. Not satisfied, Palmer was player-manager as Stockport fell into the third tier in



Nigel Quashie went down with Saints in 2005.

Midfielder - Neil Redfearn (five)
Redfearn dropped from the top flight in successive seasons with Barnsley and Charlton before the turn of the century, from the third tier with Bolton in 1983 and Lincoln in 1986, and then from the fourth tier with Halifax in 2002.

Striker - Nathan Blake (five)
As already mentioned, no one has suffered more relegations from the Premier League than Blake. It all began at Sheffield United in 1994 before he went down twice with Bolton in 1996 and 1998. Blackburn also fell to the second tier with Blake up front while Wolves topped off his relegation hit list in 2004.

Striker - Ashley Ward (four)
Ward went down at Norwich in 1995, Barnsley in 1998, Blackburn in 1999 and Bradford in 2001.

Striker - Marcus Bent (four)
If you found yourself with Bent and Hreidarsson in your team, you almost always went down. Just ask Crystal Palace (1998), Ipswich (2002) and Charlton (2007).
Bent did go it alone with Leicester in 2004, though.

Jose signed his own death warrant ...

FROM West Ham fans attacking Manchester United's team bus to Louis van Gaal pulling a reporter's hair, once again the Premier League saw it all in 2015-16.

Here, the Sports Pink trawls the annals of shame for 10 moments to forget from another campaign heaped with controversy.

Jose Mourinho abuses Eva Carneiro
On the opening weekend Mourinho unwittingly signed his own Chelsea death warrant by abusing club doctor Carneiro for daring to run onto the pitch to treat Eden Hazard. Chelsea were held to a 2-2 home draw by Swansea that day, but the real damage to the champions' title defence was inflicted by Mourinho himself. The self-proclaimed 'Special One' lost the backing of Chelsea's dressing room, and Carneiro later took the club to an industrial tribunal for unfair dismissal.

Gabriel's red card following running battle with Diego Costa
Chelsea striker Diego Costa is a notorious wind-up merchant and Arsenal defender Gabriel was sucked in and sent off after kicking out at the Spain international after he had tussled with Laurent Koscielny during Chelsea's 2-0 victory at Stamford



Jose Mourinho was at the centre of controversy on the opening day. Bridge. Costa seemed to get away with both pushing and striking Koscielny, but Gabriel then lost his cool.

Manchester United boss Van Gaal threatens to pull a reporter's hair
Louis van Gaal defended Marouane Fellaini against his elbow on Robert Huth by claiming the Leicester defender had pulled his player's hair. Van Gaal said such practices were only in "sex masochism" and then reached behind the camera as if to pull the hair of Sky Sports reporter Patrick Davison.

Moussa Dembele's attempted eye-gouging shame

Chelsea scrambled a 2-2 draw in May to delight their fans and end Spurs' title dreams. Ugly clashes at half-time later showed Dembele attempting to gouge Diego Costa's eye. Midfielder Dembele later received a six-match ban.

Upton Park farewell tainted by attack on Manchester United bus

Co-owner David Sullivan was forced to apologise for initially claiming West Ham fans had not attacked the United team bus ahead of the final match at Upton Park. West Ham won 3-2 to hand the Boleyn Ground a fitting on-field send-off, but the ugly scenes off it marred the occasion.

Cont on facing page

Virgil my top Saints

from page 9

Best player: The whole team. Jamie Vardy scored 24 goals and Riyad Mahrez 17 and assisted 11. Christian Fuchs also gets a mention as he has been solid at left back.

Worst player: I'll pass on this one...

Best result: Manchester City 1-3 Leicester – It was after this match when people actually began to believe that Leicester could actually win the title. They blew City away, with Robert Huth (of all people) scoring twice, and Mahrez once.

Worst result: Leicester City 2-5 Arsenal – After this match it looked as if Leicester were going to get a hard dose of reality, when a hat trick from Alexis Sanchez pushed them down to sixth.

Season rating: 10/10 – They were 5,000/1 to win the Premier League at the start of the season. How can it not be 10 out of 10!

Liverpool

Since the arrival of Jurgen Klopp, Liverpool have played some quality football. But, that said, finishing eighth a step backwards and not why the likes of Lovren, Lallana and Clyne left St Mary's.

Best player: Philippe Coutinho – The Brazilian playmaker has been one of the standout players, setting up five goals and scoring eight. Missed a couple of months through injury mid-season and was missed.

Worst player: Simon Mignolet – This couldn't have gone to anyone else really, could it? Liverpool have dropped a massive 12 points down to Mignolet's errors. That would have put them third.

Best result: Manchester City 1-4 Liverpool – A blinding display from Klopp's men.

Worst result: Saints 3-2 Liverpool – Liverpool threw away a two goal lead, with only 25 minutes remaining.

Season rating: 6/10 – Not the greatest performance in the Premier League, but reaching the final of the Europa League and also the Capital One Cup has given fans some hope. Serious money needs to be spent, though, if they are to gain Champions League football again.

Manchester City

With Chelsea having a poor season, City should have capitalised and won the league. Up until February, they had every chance. But losses to Leicester and Tottenham cost them dear.

Best player: Sergio Aguero – 24 goals in just 29 matches tells its own tale.

Worst player: Eliaquim Mangala – Ever since his big money move from FC Porto in 2014, he has failed to live up to the hype. In the 22 games he started in 2015/16 Mangala notched up eight bookings. The Frenchman was also dropped in February.



Virgil Van Dijk was Saints' star performer as they finished a Premier League best sixth.



Simon Mignolet cost Liverpool lots of points in 2015/16, but Philippe Coutinho, above right, was impressive.

Best result: Manchester City 6-1 Newcastle – Sergio Aguero struck five times within the space of 20 minutes, to send City top of the league.

Worst result: Stoke City 2-0 Manchester City – With star players Sergio Aguero and Yaya Toure injured, a lacklustre City side were blown away by two early Marko Arnautovic goals.

Season rating: 6.5/10 – Without the amount of injuries the team sustained, City could have challenged for the title. Their defence looked nervy a lot of the time, so

ther:

Manchester United

Before the season even began, the lack of strikers at the club hindered any chance of them pulling off a title triumph.

Best player: Chris Smalling – His form has seen him become one of the first names on the England team sheet.

Worst player: Memphis Depay – After signing in the summer for £25 million from PSV, Depay failed



that didn't help ei... to adapt to the English game. In the



28 games he played, he only scored twice.

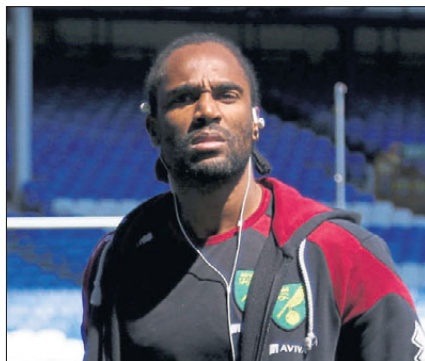
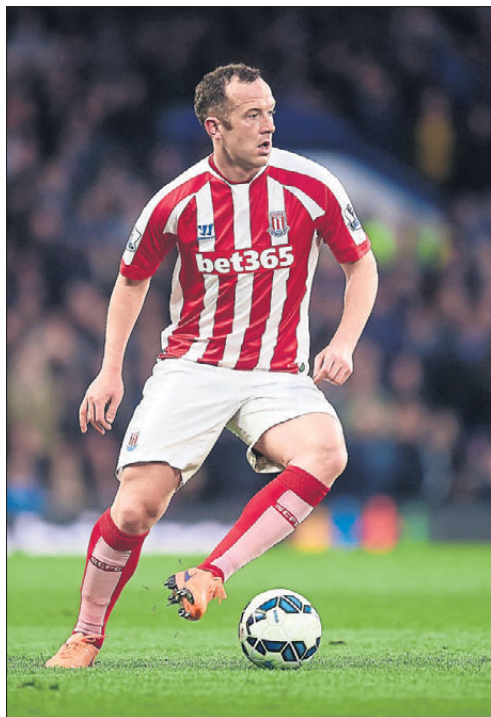
Best result: Manchester United 3-2 Arsenal – Marcus Rashford introduced himself to the Premier league, scoring twice.

Worst result: Sunderland 2-1 Manchester United – United were completely outplayed by relegation threatened Sunderland.

Season rating: 7.5/10 – Did win the FA Cup, but that was not enough to save Louis Van Gaal from the sack.

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star of 2015/16 ...



ances, scoring



Stoke's Charlie Adam, above left, was a big disappointment in 2015/16 - as was Norwich's Cameron Jerome (above right top). But Stoke keeper Jack Butland, seen in action at St Mary's, was his side's star man.



Eliaquim Mangala, left, was an expensive flop at Manchester City, but Sergio Aguero, above right, keeps scoring.



Newcastle

An appalling season from the off for Newcastle, who spent almost £80m over the course of the season and still went down. Best player: Georginio Wijnaldum - The one Newcastle player who gave his all in every match. His best moment was scoring four goals in a 6-2 win over Norwich.

Worst player: Siem De Jong - The Dutch forward joined in 2014 from Ajax, but has failed to make an impression. In 2015/16 he managed three starts, and 15 sub appear-

no goals.

Best result: Newcastle 6-2 Norwich City - After getting thrashed the week before, 6-1 by Manchester City, Newcastle took their revenge on Norwich.

Worst result: Crystal Palace 5-1 Newcastle - The visitors fell apart after taking an early lead through Papiss Cisse.

Season rating: 3/10 - Poor performances all season from a Newcastle side that really should have been finishing around mid-table. Deservedly relegated in the end.

Norwich City

A torrid run of only three wins in their last 17 matches saw Norwich relegated.

Best player: Robbie Brady - The former Manchester United player was solid at left back and left mid-field all season, and his ability to pass the ball is second to none.

Worst player: Cameron Jerome - After he scored six goals in five pre-season matches, Norwich fans thought that Jerome was going to transfer this form to the league.

Wrong. He featured in all but three of Norwich's games in 2015/16, and only netted three times.

Best result: Manchester United 1-2 Norwich City - One of Jerome's three goals came in this shock win.

Worst result: Norwich City 0-3 Sunderland - If Norwich would have won this game, they would have amassed a six point gap between themselves and the relegation zone.

Season rating: 4/10 - A relegation battle was predicted from the start, and so it proved.

SAINTS

A terrific season for Saints, who secured Europa League football on the last day of the season. Ronald Koeman has got the team playing some great attacking football, alongside a defence that only conceded 41 goals all season.

Best player: Virgil Van Dijk - The Dutch defender has been in scintillating form since joining from Celtic last summer. The 24-year-old formed a reliable partnership with captain, Jose Fonte. In the 33 Premier League games that Van Dijk played, he won seven man of the match awards - only Tottenham's Harry Kane (8) and Leicester's Riyad Mahrez (10) won more.

Worst player: Jordy Clasie - After making his debut for Saints in mid-October after injury, Clasie struggled with the physicality of the Premier League. However, his passing ability and fitness improved the more he played.

Best result: Saints 4-0 Arsenal - An astounding display from Saints. Cuco Martina scored the first with a stunning curler from 30 yards out with Shane Long (2) and Jose Fonte also netting.

Worst result: Saints 1 Aston Villa 1. They failed to beat Villa at home. Enough said.

Season rating: 8/10 - A club record sixth place Premier League finish was a superb achievement.

Stoke City

Stoke have gone about their business quietly under Mark Hughes and finished ninth for the third successive season.

Best player: Jack Butland - The 23-year-old kept 10 clean sheets in 2015/16, and Stone's results tailed off after he picked up an injury.

Worst player: Charlie Adam - Adam only scored once in 2015/16, and in comparison to the past two years (scored seven in each campaign) that wasn't good enough. Also failed to record a single assist from the middle of the park in 21 games.

Best result: Everton 3-4 Stoke City - Stoke trailed 3-2 with 10 minutes left, before Joselu levelled and in stoppage time Marko Arnautovic scored the winner via the penalty spot.

Worst result: Sunderland 2-0 Stoke - Two late goals ended a four match away unbeaten run.

Continued on page 30

Woe and yet more woe at Newcastle

from facing page

Embarrassing defending underpins Newcastle's woeful fight against relegation

Steven Taylor's master-class in how not to defend encapsulated all that was wrong with now-relegated Newcastle in a hapless 3-1 defeat at Saints on April 9. Taylor was so poor he was withdrawn at half-time by boss Rafael Benitez. Rarely has a Premier League team defended so poorly and appeared so disoriented as in this woefully inept, heartless performance.

Chelsea fans boo star players and accuse squad of turning their backs on Jose Mourinho after the Portuguese manager's sacking

No sooner had Jose Mourinho been removed by Chelsea than the club's fans made their feelings known before kick-off against Sunderland at Stamford Bridge on Saturday, December 19.

Blues fans booed Eden Hazard, Cesc Fabregas and Diego Costa when the three stars' names were announced to the crowd in the team line-up.

Supporters waved banners branding all three "rats" as Chelsea fans vented frustration with the team appearing to withdraw support for Mourinho in the run-up to his dismissal.



Steve McClaren had a public spat with a reporter.

Beleaguered Newcastle manager Steve McClaren rows with journalist

Just seven days before being sacked by Newcastle, former England boss McClaren proved his desperation by attacking a journalist in a press conference to preview the March 5 clash at home to Bournemouth. In a bid to deflect rumours he was facing the sack, McClaren launched several smears against one of the journalists present at the press conference. The journalist and McClaren were then involved in a public spat, before later apologising and discussing the matter in further detail. Surely this unedifying episode must rank high among McClaren's many ill-judged and fruitless endeavours on Tyneside.

Louis van Gaal loses the right to criticise his players for diving

Unorthodox Manchester United boss Van Gaal employed another ill-conceived trick during the Red Devils' 3-2 home win over Arsenal on February 28. In a bid to overemphasise his frustrations with apparent diving by Arsenal, Van Gaal threw himself theatrically to the ground in front of a nonplussed fourth official. The United boss later apologised for his antics, but the damage was already done.

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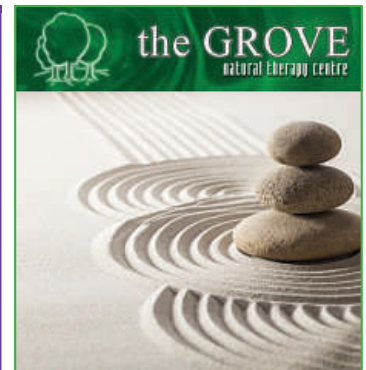
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A pictorial souvenir of Southampton's great 2015/16 Premier League season

Man United well out on their own

PREMIER LEAGUE RECORDS

Most titles: 13 - Manchester United

Most consecutive title wins: 3 - Man United (1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-01) and (2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09).

Biggest title-winning margin: 18 points - 1999-2000; Man United (91 pts) over Arsenal (73)

Smallest title-winning margin: 0 points and 8 goal difference - 2011-12; Man City (+64) over Man United (+56). Both finished on 89 points, but City won the title with a superior goal difference - the only time that goal difference has determined the Premier League. [3]

Most wins (38 games): 29 - Chelsea (2004-05, 2005-06)

Fewest wins (38 games): 1, Derby County (2007-08)

Fewest home wins (19 games): 1 - Sunderland (2005-06), Derby County (2007-08)

Most home wins (19 games): 18 - Chelsea (2005-06), Man United (2010-11), Man City (2011-12)

Most away wins (19 games): 15 - Chelsea (2004-05)

Fewest away wins (19/21 games): 0 - Leeds United (1992-93, when defending champions), Coventry City (1999-2000), Wolves (2003-04), Norwich City (2004-05), Derby County (2007-08), Hull City (2009-10)

Most consecutive wins: 14 - Arsenal (between 10 February 2002 and 24 August 2002)

Most consecutive games without a win (38 games): 32 - Derby County (2007-08)

Derby were relegated at the end of the season and have not played in the Premier League since, so this record may be extended if they are ever promoted back to the top flight.

Most consecutive league games without a win from beginning of season: 16 - QPR (between 18 August 2012 and 8 December 2012)

Most consecutive home wins: 20 - Manchester City (between 5 March 2011 and 21 March 2012)

Most consecutive away wins: 12 - Arsenal (between 3 March 2013 and 26 October 2013)

Fewest losses (38 games): 0 - Arsenal (2003-04)

Longest unbeaten run: 49 games - Arsenal (7 May 2003 - 24 October 2004)

Most losses in total: 333 - Aston Villa

Continued on facing page

Caught on camera - Saints in action 2015/16



Graziano Pelle has just put Saints on the road to victory over Norwich.



Shane Long heads the equaliser in Saints' opening game at Newcastle.



Dusan Tadic nets the first of his two goals v Norwich.



Long celebrates his goal at Newcastle.



Graziano Pelle celebrates his goal v Newcastle.



Virgil Van Dijk heads Saints into the lead at home to Swansea.



Tadic salutes the fans after a 3-0 win over Norwich at St Mary's.



Sadio Mane celebrates his goal in the 3-1 home win over Swansea.



Dusan Tadic scores from a tight angle in the win over Swansea.



Graziano Pelle celebrates scoring in Saints' stunning 3-1 win at Stamford Bridge.

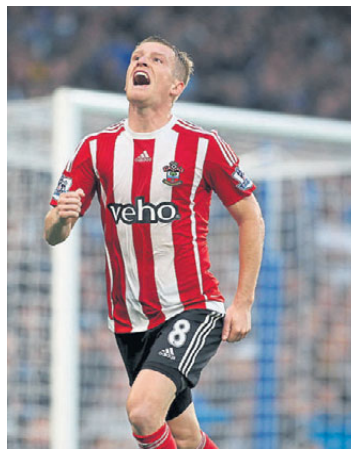
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Pelle and Steven Davis at Chelsea.



Sadio Mane scores for Saints in their win at Chelsea.



Steven Davis celebrates his goal in the victory at defending champs Chelsea.



Jose Mourinho unhappy as Saints stun his defending champions at home.



Another picture of Pelle celebrating his goal at Stamford Bridge.



Virgil Van Dijk celebrates his goal that put Saints 2-0 up v Leicester.



Saints fall behind at Stamford Bridge to a Willian goal ...



... but it's the visitors who end up celebrating a famous win.



Virgil Van Dijk wheels away after netting against eventual champions Leicester.



Goal! Jose Fonte heads Saints in front at home to Leicester.



Goal! Virgil Van Dijk fires Saints further ahead against Leicester.

Sunderland losing run is a record

PREMIER LEAGUE RECORDS

Fewest home losses (19 games):
0 - Manchester United (1995-96, 1999-2000, 2010-11)

Arsenal (1998-99, 2003-04, 2007-08)

Chelsea (2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2014-15)

Liverpool (2008-09)

Manchester City (2011-12)

Most consecutive losses over more than one season (38 games):
20 - Sunderland (2002-03, 2005-06)

Fewest away losses (19 games): 0 - Arsenal (2001-02, 2003-04)

Most consecutive home games undefeated: 86 - Chelsea (21 February 2004 - 26 October 2008)

Most consecutive away games undefeated: 27 - Arsenal (5 April 2003 - 24 October 2004)

Most draws (42 games): 18 - Manchester City (1993-94), Sheffield United (1993-94), SAINTS (1994-95)

Most draws (38 games): 17 - Newcastle United (2003-04), Aston Villa (2006-07 & 2011-12), Sunderland (2014-15)

Most home draws in a season: 10 - Sheffield Wednesday (1996-97), Leicester City (1997-98 & 2003-04)

Most away draws in a season: 10 - Newcastle (2003-04)

Fewest draws in a season: 3 - Chelsea (1997-98)[33]

Fewest home draws in a season: 0 - Manchester City (2008-09), Man United (2012-13)

Fewest away draws in a season: 1 - Bolton (1995-96), QPR= (1995-96 & 2014-15), Barnsley (1997-98), Chelsea (1997-98), Bradford City (1999-2000), Everton (2000-01), Ipswich Town (2000-01), Portsmouth (2005-06 & 2007-08), Burnley (2009-10), Liverpool (2011-12), Newcastle United (2013-14)

Most consecutive draws: 7 - Norwich City (1993-94), SAINTS (1994-95), Manchester City (2009-10)[33]

Most draws in total: 275, Aston Villa

Highest attendance: 76,098 - Man United v Blackburn, 31 March 2007

Lowest attendance: 3,039 - Wimbledon v. Everton (at Selhurst Park, 26 January 1993)

Most goals scored : 103 - Chelsea (2009-10)

Fewest goals scored: 20 - Derby County (2007-08)

Most goals conceded (42 games) - 100, Swindon Town (1993-94)

Continued on page 16

Chelsea's defensive records

PREMIER LEAGUE RECORDS

Most goals conceded (38 games): 89 - Derby County (2007-08)

Fewest goals conceded: 15 - Chelsea (2004-05)

Best goal difference: 71 - Chelsea (2009-10)

Most goals scored by a relegated team: 55 - Blackpool (2010-11)

Most goals scored at home in a season: 68 - Chelsea (2009-10) [39]

Fewest goals scored at home: 10 - Man City (2006-07)

Most goals conceded at home (42 games): 45 - Swindon (1993-94)

Most goals conceded at home (38 games): 43 - Derby (2007-08), Wolves (2011-12)

Fewest goals conceded at home (42 games or 38 games): 4 - Manchester United (1993-94)

Most goals scored away: 48 - Liverpool (2013-14)

Fewest goals scored away: 8 - Middlesbrough (1995-96), SAINTS (1998-99), Sheffield United (2006-07), Derby (2007-08)[42]

Most goals conceded away (42 games): 59 - Ipswich Town (1994-95)

Most goals conceded away (38 games): 55 - Wigan Athletic (2009-10)

Fewest goals conceded away: 9, Chelsea (2004-05)[42]

Fewest failures to score in a match: 0 (scored in every game) - Arsenal (2001-02)

Most goals scored in total: 1691 - Manchester United

Most goals conceded in total: 1117, Tottenham

Largest goal deficit overcome to win: 3 - Leeds 4-3 Derby (8 November 1997), West Ham 3-4 Wimbledon (9 September 1998), Tottenham 3-5 Man United (29 September 2001), Wolves 4-3 Leicester (25 October 2003)

Largest goal deficit overcome to draw: 4 - Newcastle 4-4 Arsenal (5 February 2011)

Most points: 95 - Chelsea (2004-05)

Fewest points: 11, Derby County (2007-08)

Most points in a season without winning the league: 89 - Man United (2011-12)

Fewest points in a season while winning the league: 75 - Man United (1996-97)

Most points in a season while being relegated: 42 games: 49 - Crystal Palace (1992-93); 38 games: 42 - West Ham (2002-03)

Continued on facing page

Caught on camera - Saints fans in 2015/16



Before the home loss to Everton.



Before the home win over Norwich.



Before the home game with Everton.



Before the home loss to Everton.



Before the Everton home defeat.



Before the 3-0 home victory over Norwich.



Before the win at home to Norwich.



Before the home loss to Everton.



Before the win against Norwich.



Before the win at home to Norwich.

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During the home loss to Man United



Before the win at Chelsea.



Before the stunning success at Stamford Bridge, above and right.



Before the win at Stamford Bridge.



Before the win at Chelsea.



Before the home draw with Leicester.



Before the home win over Norwich.



Before the home win over Swansea at St Mary's.



Before the home win over Swansea, with Saints legend Lawrie McMenemy.

WBA stay up with just 34 points!

PREMIER LEAGUE RECORDS

Fewest points in a season while surviving relegation: 34 - West Brom (2004-05)

Most Premier League appearances: 632 - Ryan Giggs (Manchester United, 15 August 1992 to 6 May 2014)

Most Premier League appearances at one club: 632 - Ryan Giggs

Oldest player: John Burridge - 43 years and 162 days (for Manchester City v QPR, 14 May 1995)

Youngest player: Matthew Briggs - 16 years and 65 days (for Fulham v. Middlesbrough, 13 May 2007)

Most consecutive Premier League appearances: 310 - Brad Friedel (14 August 2004 until 7 October 2012)

Most seasons appeared in: 22 - Ryan Giggs (every season from 1992-93 to 2013-14)

First Premier League goal: Brian Deane (for Sheffield United v Manchester United, 15 August 1992)

Most Premier League goals: Alan Shearer (260)

Most Premier League goals at one club: Wayne Rooney - 177, for Manchester United

Oldest goalscorer: Teddy Sheringham - 40 years and 268 days (for West Ham United v Portsmouth, 26 December 2006)

Youngest goalscorer: James Vaughan - 16

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Vardy was top player of season

PREMIER LEAGUE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

1994-95 Alan Shearer (Blackburn)
 1995-96 Peter Schmeichel (Man United)
 1996-97 Juninho (Middlesbrough)
 1997-98 Michael Owen (Liverpool)
 1998-99 Dwight Yorke (Man United)
 1999-2000 Kevin Phillips (Sunderland)
 2000-01 Patrick Vieira (Arsenal)
 2001-02 Freddie Ljungberg (Arsenal)
 2002-03 Ruud van Nistelrooy (Man United)
 2003-04 Thierry Henry (Arsenal)
 2004-05 Frank Lampard (Chelsea)
 2005-06 Thierry Henry (Arsenal)
 2006-07 Cristiano Ronaldo (Man United)
 2007-08 Cristiano Ronaldo (Man United)
 2008-09 Nemanja Vidi (Man United)
 2009-10 Wayne Rooney (Man United)
 Nemanja Vidi (Man United)
 2011-12 Vincent Kompany (Man City)
 2012-13 Gareth Bale (Tottenham)
 2013-14 Luis Suárez (Liverpool)
 2014-15 Eden Hazard (Chelsea)
 2015-16 Jamie Vardy (Leicester City)

PFA PLAYER OF THE YEAR (Premier League era)

1992-93 Paul McGrath Aston Villa
 1993-94 Eric Cantona Man United
 1994-95 Alan Shearer Blackburn
 1995-96 Les Ferdinand Newcastle
 1996-97 Alan Shearer Newcastle
 1997-98 Dennis Bergkamp Arsenal
 1998-99 David Ginola Tottenham
 1999-2000 Roy Keane Man United
 2000-01 Teddy Sheringham Man United
 2001-02 Ruud van Nistelrooy Man United
 2002-03 Thierry Henry Arsenal
 2003-04 Thierry Henry Arsenal
 2004-05 John Terry Chelsea
 2005-06 Steven Gerrard Liverpool
 2006-07 Cristiano Ronaldo Man United
 2007-08 Cristiano Ronaldo Man United
 2008-09 Ryan Giggs Man United
 2009-10 Wayne Rooney Man United
 2010-11 Gareth Bale Tottenham
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Caught on camera - Saints in action 2015/16



Graziano Pelle heads a goal for Saints against Cherries ...



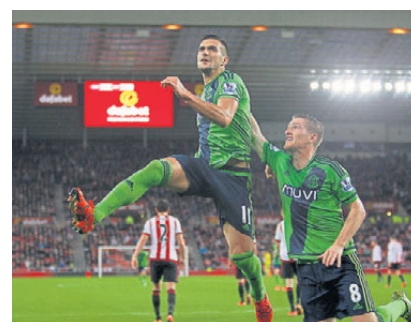
... and celebrates with an All Blacks 'Haka' dance on the touchline.



Steven Davis scores for Saints against Cherries.



Davis wheels away after scoring.



Dusan Tadic celebrates his winner at Sunderland



Tadic salutes the Saints fans after scoring at the Stadium of Light.



Jose Fonte heads a goal in the 4-0 rout of Arsenal.



Jose Fonte after his goal against Arsenal.



Saints celebrate after Cuco Martina scored a stunner against Arsenal.



Shane Long celebrates his second goal v Arsenal.

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Dusan Tadic celebrates scoring Saints' second goal against Watford.



Sub Dusan Tadic scores Saints' second goal in the 2-0 home win over Watford in January.



Shane Long after putting Saints on the road to victory against Watford.



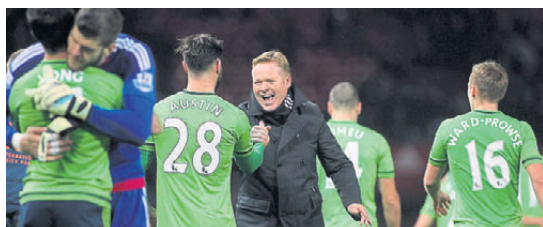
Shane Long heads Saints into the lead against Watford.



Dusan Tadic scores in the 3-0 home win over West Bromwich Albion.



Charlie Austin after his debut winner at Old Trafford in January.



Ronald Koeman delighted after winning at Old Trafford.



Austin (obscure) heads a late debut winner.



Austin celebrates scoring on his debut.



Maya Yoshida scores Saints' winner against West Ham.



Victor Wanyama is shown his third red card of the season v West Ham.

The young stars of the season

from facing page

2011-12 Robin van Persie Arsenal
2012-13 Gareth Bale Tottenham
2013-14 Luis Suárez Liverpool
2014-15 Eden Hazard Chelsea
2015-16 Riyad Mahrez Leicester

PFA YOUNG PLAYER OF THE YEAR (Premier League era)

1992-93 Ryan Giggs Man United
1993-94 Andy Cole Newcastle
1994-95 Robbie Fowler Liverpool
1995-96 Robbie Fowler Liverpool
1996-97 David Beckham Man United
1997-98 Michael Owen Liverpool
1998-99 Nicolas Anelka Arsenal [15]
1999-2000 Harry Kewell Leeds
2000-01 Steven Gerrard Liverpool
2001-02 Craig Bellamy Newcastle
2002-03 Jermaine Jenas Newcastle
2003-04 Scott Parker Charlton/Chelsea
2004-05 Wayne Rooney Man United
2005-06 Wayne Rooney Man United
2006-07 Cristiano Ronaldo Man United
2007-08 Cesc Fàbregas Arsenal
2008-09 Ashley Young Aston Villa
2009-10 James Milner Aston Villa
2010-11 Jack Wilshere Arsenal
2011-12 Kyle Walker Tottenham
2012-13 Gareth Bale Tottenham
2013-14 Eden Hazard Chelsea
2014-15 Harry Kane Tottenham
2015-16 Dele Alli Tottenham

FOOTBALL WRITERS' FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR (Premier League era)

1992-93 Chris Waddle Sheffield Wednesday
1993-94 Alan Shearer Blackburn
1994-95 Jürgen Klinsmann Tottenham
1995-96 Eric Cantona Man United
1996-97 Gianfranco Zola Chelsea
1997-98 Dennis Bergkamp Arsenal
1998-99 David Ginola Tottenham
1999-00 Roy Keane Man United
2000-01 Teddy Sheringham Man United
2001-02 Robert Pirès Arsenal

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Top bosses of 2015/16 campaign

from page 19

2002-03 Thierry Henry Arsenal
 2003-04 Thierry Henry Arsenal
 2004-05 Frank Lampard Chelsea
 2005-06 Thierry Henry Arsenal
 2006-07 Cristiano Ronaldo Man United
 2007-08 Cristiano Ronaldo Man United
 2008-09 Steven Gerrard Liverpool
 2009-10 Wayne Rooney Man United
 2010-11 Scott Parker West Ham
 2011-12 Robin van Persie Arsenal
 2012-13 Gareth Bale Tottenham
 2013-14 Luis Suárez Liverpool
 2014-15 Eden Hazard Chelsea
 2015-16 Jamie Vardy Leicester City

PREMIER LEAGUE MANAGER OF THE MONTH 2015/16

Aug Manuel Pellegrini Manchester City
 Sept Mauricio Pochettino Tottenham
 Oct Arsène Wenger Arsenal
 Nov Claudio Ranieri Leicester
 Dec Quique Sánchez Flores Watford
 Jan Ronald Koeman Southampton
 Feb Mauricio Pochettino Tottenham
 Mar Claudio Ranieri Leicester
 Apr Claudio Ranieri Leicester

PREMIER LEAGUE PLAYER OF THE MONTH 2015/16

Aug André Ayew Swansea City
 Sept Anthony Martial Man United
 Oct Jamie Vardy Leicester City
 Nov Jamie Vardy Leicester City
 Dec Odion Ighalo Watford
 Jan Sergio Agüero Man City
 Feb Fraser Forster SAINTS
 Mar Harry Kane Tottenham
 April Sergio Agüero Man City

ALL TIME PREMIER LEAGUE TOP SCORERS

Alan Shearer 260
 Wayne Rooney 193
 Andrew Cole 187
 Frank Lampard 177
 Thierry Henry 175

Continued on facing page

Caught on camera: Saints fans in 2015/16



Before the home loss to Stoke City.



Before Saints' 4-2 win at Aston Villa.



Before the home defeat to Stoke.



Before the win over Bournemouth.



Before beating Bournemouth 2-0.



Young fans prior to the 1-0 home loss to Stoke City.



Before the home defeat to Stoke.



Fans before the 3-0 home win over West Brom.



Before Saints v Cherries.



Before Saints v Stoke.

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Saints fans before the home loss against Stoke.



Before the 4-2 victory at Aston Villa.



Before the 4-2 success at Aston Villa.



Before the win at Aston Villa.



Before the home win over West Bromwich Albion.



Goal! Saints score against Arsenal.



Fans before the 4-0 Boxing Day win against Arsenal.



Fans celebrate as Saints thrash the Gunners.

Top flight leading marksmen

from facing page

Robbie Fowler 163
 Michael Owen 150
 Les Ferdinand 149
 Teddy Sheringham 147
 Robin van Persie 144
 Jermain Defoe 143
 Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink 127
 Robbie Keane 126
 Nicolas Anelka 125
 Dwight Yorke 123
 Steven Gerrard 120
 Ian Wright 113
 Dion Dublin 111
 Emile Heskey 110
 Ryan Giggs 109
 Paul Scholes 107
 Darren Bent 106
 Didier Drogba 104
 Sergio Aguero 102
 Matt Le Tissier 102
 Emmanuel Adebayor 97
 Yakubu 96
 Ruud van Nistelrooy 95
 Peter Crouch 95
 Dimitar Berbatov 94
 Kevin Phillips 92
 Mark Viduka 92
 Ole-Gunnar Solskjaer 91
 James Beattie 91

PREMIER LEAGUE TOP SCORERS

15/16 Harry Kane (Spurs) 25
 14/15 Sergio Agüero Man City 26
 13/14 Luis Suárez Liverpool 31
 12/13 Robin van Persie Man United 26
 11/12 Robin van Persie Arsenal 30
 10/11 Dimitar Berbatov Man United 21
 Carlos Tévez Man City 21
 09/10 Didier Drogba Chelsea 29
 08/09 Nicolas Anelka Chelsea 19
 07/08 Cristiano Ronaldo Man United 31
 06/07 Didier Drogba Chelsea 20
 05/06 Thierry Henry Arsenal 27
 04/05 Thierry Henry Arsenal 25
 03/04 Thierry Henry Arsenal 30
 02/003 Ruud van Nistelrooy Man United 25
 01/02 Thierry Henry Arsenal 24
 00/01 Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink Chelsea 23
 99/00 Kevin Phillips Sunderland 30
 98/99 Michael Owen Liverpool 18
 Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink Leeds 18
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Most goals in a single season

From page 21

Dwight Yorke Man United 18
 97/98 Michael Owen Liverpool 18
 Dion Dublin Coventry 18
 Chris Sutton Blackburn 18
 96/97 Alan Shearer Newcastle 25
 95/96 Alan Shearer Blackburn 31
 94/95 Alan Shearer Blackburn 34
 93/94 Andy Cole Newcastle 34
 92/93 Teddy Sheringham Tottenham 22

PRE PREMIER LEAGUE

91/92 Ian Wright Arsenal 29
 90/91 Alan Smith Arsenal 23
 89/90 Gary Lineker Tottenham 24
 88/89 Alan Smith Arsenal 23
 87/88 John Aldridge Liverpool 26
 86/87 Clive Allen Tottenham 33
 85/86 Gary Lineker Everton 30
 84/85 Kerry Dixon Chelsea 24
 Gary Lineker Leicester 24
 83/1984 Ian Rush Liverpool 32
 82/1983 Luther Blissett Watford 27
 81/82 Kevin Keegan SAINTS 26

Most goals in a season (42 games): 34, joint record - Andrew Cole (Newcastle United, 1993-94), Alan Shearer (Blackburn, 1994-95)

Most goals in a season (38 games): 31 - Alan Shearer (Blackburn, 1995-96), Cristiano Ronaldo (Man United, 2007-08), Luis Suárez (Liverpool, 2013-14)

Most Premier League goals in a calendar year: 36 - Alan Shearer (Blackburn, 1995)

Most goals in a debut season: 30, Kevin Phillips (Sunderland, 1999-00)

Most Premier league hat-tricks in a season: Alan Shearer 5 (42 games) (Blackburn, 1995-96)

Most Premier league hat-tricks: Alan Shearer 11

Most goals in a game: 5 - Andrew Cole (for Manchester United v Ipswich Town, 4 March 1995) W 9-0

Alan Shearer (for Newcastle v Sheffield Wednesday, 19 September 1999) W 8-0

Jermain Defoe (for Tottenham v Wigan Athletic, 22 November 2009) W 9-1

Dimitar Berbatov (for Manchester United v Blackburn, 27 November 2010) W 7-1

Sergio Agüero (for Manchester City v Newcastle, 3 October 2015) W 6-1

Caught on camera - Saints in action 2015/16



Graziano Pelle heads Saints into the lead at Stoke City ...



... and the Italian doubles the advantage shortly after.



Graziano Pelle celebrates at Stoke with Ronald Koeman.



Pelle scores for Saints v Liverpool.



Koeman celebrates victory against Liverpool.



Sadio Mane wheels away after scoring the winner against Liverpool.



Sadio Mane scores the first of his two goals against Liverpool.



Victor Wanyama celebrates against Newcastle.

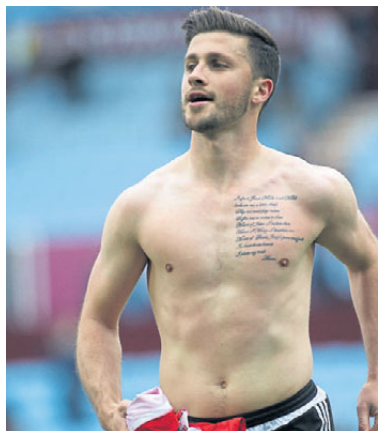


Shane Long and Sadio Mane celebrate the former's goal v Newcastle.



Graziano Pelle scores against Newcastle.

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Shane Long after Saints had beaten Aston Villa in April.



Dusan Tadic scores the first of his brace at Villa Park.



Tadic celebrates at Villa Park.



Sadio Mane scores Saints' leveller against Everton at Goodison Park.



Sadio Mane completes his treble against Manchester City.



Shane Long jumps for joy after scoring for Saints in the 4-2 win at Aston Villa.



Saints fans at Leicester, above and below.



Sadio Mane has just scored his first goal against Manchester City.



Sadio Mane scores the second of his three goals against Man City.



Sadio Mane scores the first of his hat-trick against Manchester City.

Who netted for seven PL clubs?

PREMIER LEAGUE RECORDS

Most goals in a game: 5 - Andrew Cole (for Manchester United v. Ipswich Town, 4 March 1995) W 9-0

Alan Shearer (for Newcastle v. Sheffield Wednesday, 19 September 1999) W 8-0

Jermain Defoe (for Tottenham v. Wigan Athletic, 22 November 2009) W 9-1

Dimitar Berbatov (for Manchester United v. Blackburn, 27 November 2010) W 7-1

Sergio Agüero (for Manchester City v. Newcastle, 3 October 2015) W 6-1

Most goals in one half: 5, Jermain Defoe (for Tottenham v. Wigan Athletic, 22 November 2009) W 9-1

Fastest goal: 10 seconds, Ledley King (for Tottenham Hotspur v. Bradford City, 9 December 2000)

Most goals scored by a substitute in a game: 4, Ole Gunnar Solskjær (for Manchester United v. Nottingham Forest, 6 February 1999)

Most consecutive away league matches scored in: 9, Robin van Persie (for Arsenal, 1 January 2011 to 22 May 2011)

Most consecutive seasons to score at least 30 Goals: 3 (1993-1996), Alan Shearer (all for Blackburn Rovers)

Most consecutive seasons to score at least 25 Goals: 4 (1993-1997), Alan Shearer (1993-1996 for Blackburn Rovers, 1996-1997 for Newcastle United)

Most consecutive seasons to score at least 20 Goals: 5 (2001-2006), Thierry Henry (all for Arsenal)

Most consecutive seasons to score at least 10 Goals: 11 (2004-2015), Wayne Rooney (all for Manchester United)

Most consecutive seasons to score at least 1 Goal: 21 (1992-2013), Ryan Giggs (all for Manchester United)

Fastest Premier League hat-trick: Sadio Mané, 2 minutes 56 seconds (for SAINTS v. Aston Villa, 16 May 2015)

Highest number of different clubs to score for: 7: Craig Bellamy (for Coventry, Newcastle, Blackburn, Liverpool, West Ham, Manchester City, Cardiff City)

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Cech holds clean sheet record

PREMIER LEAGUE RECORDS

Most own goals: 10, Richard Dunne

Most own goals in a season: 4, Martin Škrteľ (2013-14)

Most Hat-tricks against a single club: 3, Luis Suárez (for Liverpool v. Norwich City)

Most Goals in a calendar month: 10 (December 2013) - Luis Suárez (for Liverpool)

Most Premier League assists: Ryan Giggs (162)

Most Premier League assists in a season: 20 - Thierry Henry for Arsenal, (2002-03)

Most consecutive Premier League matches assisted in: 7 - Mesut Özil (for Arsenal, 26 September to 21 November 2015)

Most assists in a single Premier League match: 4 - Dennis Bergkamp (for Arsenal v. Leicester City, 20 February 1999)

José Antonio Reyes (for Arsenal v. Middlesbrough, 14 January 2006)

Cesc Fàbregas (for Arsenal v. Blackburn Rovers, 4 October 2009)

Emmanuel Adebayor (for Tottenham Hotspur v. Newcastle United, 11 February 2012)

Santi Cazorla (for Arsenal v. Wigan Athletic, 14 May 2013)

Dušan Tadić (for SAINTS v. Sunderland, 18 October 2014)

Most clean sheets (career)

1 Petr Čech 174

2 David James 169

3 Mark Schwarzer 152

4 David Seaman 140

5 Nigel Martyn 137

6 Pepe Reina 134

7 Tim Howard 133

8 Edwin van der Sar 132

9 Brad Friedel 132

10 Peter Schmeichel 128

Most clean sheets in one season: 21 - Petr Čech (for Chelsea, 2004-05), Edwin van der Sar (for Manchester United, 2008-09)

Longest consecutive run without conceding a goal: 14 games (1,311 minutes), Edwin van der Sar (for Manchester United, 2008-09)

Goalscoring goalkeepers (excluding own goals): Peter Schmeichel (Everton 3-2 Aston Villa, 20 October 2001)

Brad Friedel (Charlton 3-2 Blackburn, 21 February 2004)

Continued on facing page

Caught on camera - Saints fans in 2015/16



Before the 1-0 defeat at eventual champions Leicester in April.



Before the 1-0 defeat at Leicester in April.



Before the loss at Leicester, above and right.



Saints fans before Leicester City v Southampton.



Saints fans prior to the loss at Norwich in early January.



Fans before the home win over West Ham United.



Saints fans before Southampton v West Ham



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Before the home win against West Ham.



Before the home win over West Ham.



Saints fans before the home draw with Sunderland.



Saints fans prior to the home draw with Sunderland



Saints fans prior to the home draw with Sunderland



The biggest home and away wins

PREMIER LEAGUE RECORDS

Biggest home win: 9-0, Manchester United v. Ipswich Town (4 March 1995)

Biggest away win: 1-8, Nottingham Forest v. Manchester United (6 February 1999)

Biggest aggregate win: 12-1 - Blackburn Rovers 7-0 Nottingham Forest (18 November 1995) & Nottingham Forest 1-5 Blackburn Rovers (13 April 1996), Tottenham Hotspur 9-1 Wigan Athletic (22 November 2009) & Wigan Athletic 0-3 Tottenham Hotspur (21 February 2010)

Highest scoring: 7-4, Portsmouth v. Reading (29 September 2007)

Highest scoring draw: 5-5, West Bromwich Albion v. Manchester United (19 May 2013)

Highest scoring in the first half: 7 goals -

Blackburn Rovers 3-4 Leeds United (14 September 1997 - final score; 3-4), Bradford City 4-3 Derby County (21 April 2000 - final score; 4-4), Reading 3-4 Manchester United (1 December 2012 - final score; 3-4).

Most frequent scoreline: 1-0, 1482 times[106]

Most individual goal scorers in one game: 9 -

Tottenham Hotspur 4-5 Arsenal (13 November 2004), Portsmouth 7-4 Reading (29 September 2007).

Most individual goal scorers in one game for the same team: 7 - Chelsea 8-0 Aston Villa (23 December 2012), Manchester City 7-0 Norwich City (2 November 2013), SAINTS 8-0 Sunderland (18 October 2014).

Most Premier League winner's medals: 13, Sir Alex Ferguson (Manchester United) - 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2013

Winner of Premier League Manager of the Month Award: Sir Alex Ferguson 27 times

Most promotions to the Premier League: 4 - Steve Bruce (Birmingham City in 2001-02 and 2006-07 and Hull City in 2012-13 and 2015-16)

Most relegations from the Premier League: 3 - Dave Bassett (Sheffield United in 1993-94, Nottingham Forest in 1996-97, and Leicester City in 2001-02)

Longest-serving manager: Sir Alex Ferguson, 21 years (Manchester United, 1 July 1992 to 30 June 2013)

Shortest-serving manager (excluding caretakers): Les Reed - 41 days (Charlton Athletic, 14 November 2006 to 24 December 2006)

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2015/16 top flight statistics

PREMIER LEAGUE MOST GOALS 2015/16

- 1 Harry Kane Tottenham Hotspur 25
- 2 Sergio Agüero Manchester City 24
- Jamie Vardy Leicester City
- 4 Romelu Lukaku Everton 18
- 5 Riyad Mahrez Leicester City 17
- 6 Olivier Giroud Arsenal 16
- 7 Jermain Defoe Sunderland 15
- Odion Ighalo Watford
- 9 Troy Deeney Watford 13
- Alexis Sánchez Arsenal

Hat-tricks

Callum Wilson AFC Bournemouth v West Ham 4-3 22 August 2015

Steven Naismith Everton Chelsea 3-1 12 September 2015

Alexis Sánchez Arsenal Leicester City 5-2 26 September 2015

Argentina Sergio Agüero (5 goals) Manchester City Newcastle United 6-1 3 October 2015

Raheem Sterling Manchester City AFC Bournemouth 5-1 17 October 2015

Georginio Wijnaldum Newcastle United Norwich City 6-2 18 October 2015

Harry Kane Tottenham Hotspur AFC Bournemouth 5-1 25 October 2015

Arouna Koné Everton Sunderland 6-2 1 November 2015

Riyad Mahrez Leicester City Swansea City 3-0 5 December 2015

Jermain Defoe Sunderland Swansea City 4-2 13 January 2016

Andy Carroll West Ham United Arsenal 3-3 9 April 2016

Sergio Agüero Manchester City Chelsea 3-0 16 April 2016

Sadio Mané Southampton Manchester City 4-2 1 May 2016

Olivier Giroud Arsenal Aston Villa 4-0 15 May 2016

Clean sheets

1 Petr Čech Arsenal 16

2 David de Gea Manchester United 15

Joe Hart Manchester City

Kasper Schmeichel Leicester City

5 Hugo Lloris Tottenham Hotspur 13

6 Heurelho Gomes Watford 11

Simon Mignolet Liverpool

8 Jack Butland Stoke City 10

9 Adrián West Ham United 9

Łukasz Fabiański Swansea City

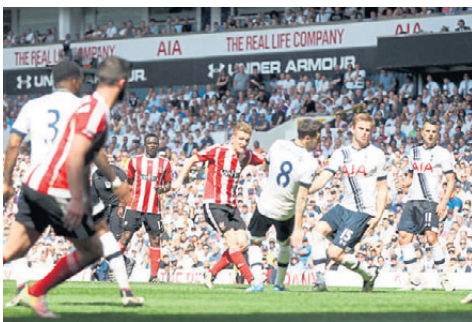
Caught on camera - Saints in action 2015/16



All smiles as Saints stun Mauricio Pochettino's Spurs in May.



Saints salute their fans after winning at White Hart Lane.



Steven Davis scores the winner at Tottenham.



Ronald Koeman after the win at Tottenham.



Davis celebrates his winner at Tottenham.



Steven Davis scores Saints' final goal of the season v Crystal Palace.



Graziano Pelle heads home in the win over Palace.



Pelle celebrates his goal against Palace.



Sadio Mané scores against Palace.



Ryan Bertrand has just scored from the spot.

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Saints fans in high spirits during the last game of the season at home to Crystal Palace, above and below.



All Saints' Premier managers

SAINTS MANAGERS (since summer 1991)

Ian Branfoot - 11 June 1991-10 January 1994: 944 days.

Alan Ball - 20 January 1994-2 July 1995: 528 days.

Dave Merrington - 14 July 1995-14 June 1996: 336 days

Graeme Souness: 3 July 1996-1 June 1997: 333 days

Dave Jones - 23 June 1997-27 January 2000: 948 days

Glenn Hoddle - 28 January 2000-28 March 2001: 425 days

Stuart Gray - 30 March 2001-21 October 2001: 205 days

Gordon Strachan - 22 October 2001-13 February 2004: 844 days

Paul Sturrock - 4 March 2004-23 August 2004: 172 days

Steve Wigley - 23 August 2004-10 December 2004: 109 days

Harry Redknapp - 8 December 2004-2 December 2005: 359 days

Nigel Adkins - 12 September 2010-18 January 2013: 859 days

Mauricio Pochettino - 18 January 2013-27 May 2014: 494 days

Ronald Koeman - 16 June 2014-Present

MOST GAMES MANAGED IN PREMIER LEAGUE

Sir Alex Ferguson - 810 Manchester United (810)

Arsène Wenger - 752 Arsenal (752)

Harry Redknapp - 639 West Ham United (269), Portsmouth (157), Tottenham (144), Queens Park Rangers (71), Saints (22)

David Moyes - 461 Everton (427), Manchester United (34)

Sam Allardyce - 430 Bolton Wanderers (226), West Ham United (114), Blackburn (41), Sunderland (30), Newcastle (19)

Steve Bruce - 393 Birmingham City (165), Sunderland (89), Hull City, (76) Wigan Athletic (63)

Mark Hughes - 383 Blackburn Rovers (147), Stoke City (114), Manchester City (54), Fulham (38), Queens Park Rangers (30)

Martin O'Neill - 359 Aston Villa (152), Leicester City (152), Sunderland (55)

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Caught on camera - Saints v Crystal Palace, May 15



Steven Davis pictured with a ginger wig wearing Saints fan and, above, keeper Maarten Stekelenburg with his son on his shoulders during the annual lap of honour.



A colourful fan at St Mary's.



Shane Long and Steven Davis and their families pose for a picture.



Virgil Van Dijk applauds the Saints fans on the annual lap of honour.



Skipper Jose Fonte pictured with his son on the lap of honour at St Mary's.



Sadio Mane poses for photos with fans.



Saints players and their families celebrate in front of the fans.



Saints fans in happy mood at St Mary's.



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FIND THE BALL



THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT

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**20 for Southern Daily Echo
20 for Daily Echo Bournemouth
10 for Dorset Echo
10 for Sunday Independent
10 for Brighton Argus**

FIND THE BALL is a test of skill and football knowledge and is open to readers of the Southampton, Bournemouth, Dorset Echos, Brighton Argus and Sunday Independent, Plymouth.

You have to use your skill and judgement to determine the exact centre of the ball.

Mark an X with a ballpoint pen on the picture where you consider that position to be—clear rubber stamps and self adhesive labels will also be accepted.

Every coupon will be carefully examined and the jackpot prize will be paid to the entrant whose cross marks the exact centre of the ball when the photograph was taken.

If the Jackpot is not won, £1,000 will be added to next week's jackpot.

The nearest-miss prize of £1,000 will be paid out each week to the

competitor whose cross is nearest to the centre of the ball when there is no jackpot winner.

When a jackpot has been won the next week's prize reverts back to £5,000 and the nearest-miss prize stays at £1,000.

If the Jackpot is not won after 46 weeks, when standing at £50,000, the nearest miss prize of £1,000 will be paid out and the jackpot will remain at £50,000 each week until there is a jackpot winner, then the jackpot starts again at £5,000, with the nearest miss prize remaining at £1,000 each week.

If there is more than one winner the jackpot will be shared and, similarly, if there is more than one runner-up the nearest miss prize will also be shared.

RESULTS



CLOSING DATE FOR POSTAL ENTRIES
Thursday
9am,
9th June,
2016
Names of winners will be published on
Saturday,
11th June
or Sunday
12th June
2016

Winners

Competition number S21

JACKPOT WINNER NO WINNER

CONGRATULATIONS

S Keating, Bournemouth, Dorset

who wins the nearest miss prize of £1,000

The following competitors each receive a consolation prize of £15

C Aitcheson	Southampton, Hants	M Gardiner	Chandlers Ford, Hants
R Baker	Southampton, Hants	C Lock	Everton, Hants
J Brown	Southampton, Hants	G Marsh	Southampton, Hants
A Burt	Southampton, Hants	J Maynard	Southampton, Hants
N Bull	Southampton, Hants	R McDonald	Southampton, Hants
J Denham	Eastleigh, Hants	P McNeill	Hythe, Hants
F Dunn	Southampton, Hants	M Mitchell	Southampton, Hants
K Evans	Southampton, Hants	K Murtagh	Southampton, Hants
J Franklin	Southampton, Hants	A Sainsbury	Southampton, Hants
F Galea	Southampton, Hants	K Smith	Southampton, Hants

Rules

1. You are allowed a minimum of 60 crosses and a maximum of 450 per coupon. Coupons with 451 or more will be disqualified. Entries altered defaced or mutilated will be invalid. Crosses must be distinct and separate. 2. Competitors may submit as many coupons as they wish. Members of a family can send their entries in one envelope with a covering postal order or cheque. 3. No responsibility can be accepted for entries delayed, lost or mislaid. Proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. 4. Payment may be made by postal order or cheque for the correct amount payable to Newsquest, and crossed & Co. Stamps will not be accepted in payment. 5. A competitor cannot win more than one share of the prize money across all titles each week. 6. The Editor's decision on winning entry or entries and matters relating to this competition is binding in honour only. NO CORRESPONDENCE CAN BE ENTERED INTO. 7. Employees of NEWSQUEST Media Group and subsidiary companies and members of their families are not eligible to enter the competition. 8. Address entries to FTB, Newspaper House, Test Lane, Southampton, SO16 9JX in a sealed envelope. Understamped entries are not accepted. 9. Prize monies are held for and on behalf of winners. 10. Do not send cash in the post. 11. Winners will be required to participate in publicity. 12. Photocopies not accepted. 13. For rules go to www.dailyecho.co.uk/promotions/rules, www.newsquest.co.uk/terms or write in for a copy. 14. If you pay by cheque your prize money will be paid to you once cheque has cleared.

An incident in an Stirling v Salisbury match

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Closing time Monday

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Southern Daily Echo 10.00 am Tuesday
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Top stunners of 2015/16 season ...

The Barclays Premier League season brought many twists and turns and plenty of stunning goals.

Here, the Sports Pink picks 10 of the best goals scored during the 2015-16 campaign.

PHILIPPE COUTINHO - Stoke v LIVERPOOL, 09/08/15

Liverpool had opened the campaign full of hope, and they had Philippe Coutinho to thank for giving the Anfield side a hard-earned win. With less than five minutes remaining, the Brazilian midfielder collected the ball from young left-back Joe Gomez as he spun away from marker Steve Sidwell before firing an unstoppable strike into the top-right corner of Jack Butland's goal.

CHRISTIAN BENTEKE - Manchester United v LIVERPOOL, 12/09/15

Liverpool were trailing 2-0 at Old Trafford when Jordan Ibe got away down the right and cut the ball back into a crowded penalty area. Daley Blind's backward header sent the ball up into the air and big Belgian forward Benteke executed a textbook overhead kick into the top-right corner to offer the Reds hope of a result.

MATT RITCHIE - BOURNEMOUTH v Sunderland, 19/09/15



Matt Ritchie, left.

A wonderful strike from Ritchie helped Bournemouth to their first league home win. The Cherries were 1-0 up through an early goal from Callum Wilson when a corner was headed clear to the edge of the Sunderland penalty area where Ritchie chested the ball down before firing it into the top-left corner.

JEREMAIN LENS - SUNDERLAND v West Ham, 03/10/15

Sunderland were already 1-0 up when the ball broke to Yann M'Vila. He threaded a pass to Lens who had time to look up and notice that goalkeeper Adrian was off his line and produce a fantastic chipped effort that went in off the underside of the crossbar.

RIYAD MAHREZ - LEICESTER v Chelsea, 14/12/15

Leicester were 1-0 up against Chelsea thanks to Jamie Vardy and were on course to go top when a deep cross from Marc Albrighton was instantly brought down by Mahrez on his weaker right foot. Chelsea's Cesar Azpilicueta looked to stick with the Algerian as Mahrez tried to jink his way around the full-back with some neat footwork before creating half a yard of space to smash a left-footed shot into the top corner past Thibaut Courtois.

Cont on facing page

Heroes & villains of

from page 11

Season rating: 7/10 – Fairly average season for Stoke, who kept on ploughing away until the end. They have got a quality squad that could potentially see them challenge for Europe next season. Or finish in 9th again...

Sunderland

The squad Sam Allardyce inherited at the beginning of October was just appalling, and it was a major rescue act to ensure the club's survival. After their awful start, a run of just two defeats in their last 12 matches helped to relegate Newcastle in the process.

Best player: Jermain Defoe – Without his 15 goals, Sunderland would surely have gone down.

Worst player: Lee Cattermole – Ever since losing the captaincy to John O'Shea in 2014, Cattermole hasn't been himself. Especially in 2015/16, in which the 28-year-old didn't score a goal or provide an assist in 30 league matches.

Best result: Sunderland 3-2 Chelsea – This victory lifted Sunderland out of the relegation zone. After Chelsea were leading 2-1 at the break, Sunderland struck back with Fabio Borini and Jermain Defoe scoring.

Worst result: Tottenham 4-1 Sunderland – After taking the lead in the 40th minute through Patrick Van Aanholt, Spurs scored four goals in 35 minutes.

Season rating: 6/10 – If it wasn't for their fine run late on, Sunderland would have been relegated.

Swansea

Swansea looked threatened by relegation coming into 2016, but under Francesco Guidolin the Swans finished 12th.

Best player: Gylfi Sigurdsson – The Icelandic midfielder has had yet another stellar season, helping himself to 11 goals and three assists from attacking midfield.

Worst player: Wayne Routledge – The 31-year-old was dreadful in 2015/16. He was weak on the wing, scoring only two goals and providing one assist in 31 games.

Best result: Swansea City 1-0 Norwich City – This victory all but sealed Swansea's safety in the top flight for a sixth successive season. Sigurdsson scored the winner.

Worst result: Swansea City 0-3 Arsenal – A run of five defeats in six games was started by this loss.

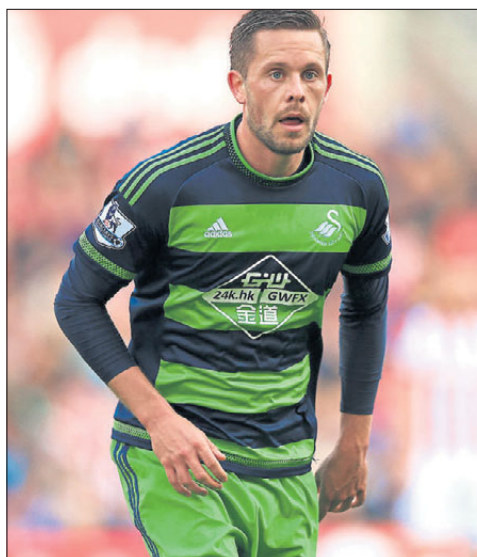
Season rating: 6.5/10 – After a dodgy start under Gary Monk, Swansea recovered well – but they will need to strengthen their squad up in the summer if they want to seriously challenge for the top half.

Tottenham Hotspur

Finally broke into the top four for the first time since 2009/10. Imploded during the final three games, and finished third in what many



Top guns - Sunderland's Jermain Defoe, left, and Tottenham's Harry Kane.



Swansea star man Gylfi Sigurdsson and, right, big disappointment Wayne Routledge.

had seen as a two-horse race for the title between themselves and Leicester.

Best player: Harry Kane – Many people thought that he was going to be a one season wonder, but he proved the critics wrong. Scored 25 goals and won the league's Golden Boot.

Worst player: Nacer Chadli – Spurs' only Belgian player to let them down.

Best result: Tottenham 4-1 Manchester City – Spurs fell behind but hit back through Eric Dier, Toby Alderweireld, Harry Kane and Erik Lamela.



Worst result: Tottenham 1-2 Newcastle – Such a typical Tottenham result. They were leading, but late goals from Aleksander Mitrovic and Ayoze Perez sealed an unlikely win for the Toon Army.

Season rating: 9/10 – Drew too many games in the run in which cost them dearly. But Champions League football is nothing to complain about if you're a Spurs fan.

Watford

After coming up from the Championship, Watford were hotly tipped to go straight back down.

However, the Hornets found themselves eighth going into 2016. Poor form followed, though.

Best player: Heurelho Gomes – After his previous spell in the Premier League with Tottenham was hindered with error after error, Gomes wanted to make amends. Boy did he make up for it. His best moments came against West Brom, when he saved two penalties from Saido Berahino.

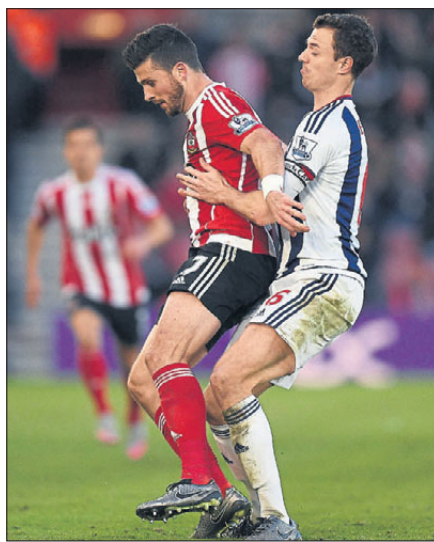
Worst player: Nordin Amrabat – After moving from Malaga in January, Amrabat had a disastrous start. After featuring in only 11 games, the Moroccan playmaker is yet to

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2015/16 top flight



Dimitri Payet, left, and Watford's Heurelho Gomes were impressive performers.



Saido Berahino (left) was a flop for West Brom, but Jonny Evans, right, impressed.

record a goal or assist. He was also sent off against West Ham.

Best result: Watford 3-0 Liverpool – Odion Ighalo netted twice in this pre-Christmas win.

Worst result: Watford 1-2 Manchester United – After Troy Deeney thought he secured a point for Watford when he converted a late penalty, he scored an own goal in injury time.

Season rating: 8/10 – Watford have performed the best out of all the promoted teams. They could have finished even higher up.

West Bromwich Albion

After plodding along all season in 12th/13th place, West Brom failed to win any of their last nine matches that saw drop down the table.

Best player: Jonny Evans – After moving to the Hawthorns in the summer, Evans proved to be one of the most reliable centre backs in the league. The Northern Irishman threw his body on the line numerous times. Evans was also voted the fans player of the year.

Worst player: Saido Berahino – West Brom really should have cashed in on Berahino when they had the chance. He had a diabolical season, scoring just four times

in 31 matches. He also missed two penalties in one match, making him the third player since 1992 to do this. The other two are Darren Bent and Juan Pablo Angel.

Best result: West Brom 2-1 Arsenal – After going a goal down, West Brom rallied when James Morrison scored a cracking volley. The winner was then scored courtesy of Arsenal's Mikel Arteta, who diverted James McClean's cross into his own net. Santi Cazorla then squandered a late spot kick.

Worst result: West Brom 2-3 Everton – The Baggies let a two goal lead slip.

Season rating 6/10 – West Brom have become one of those sides that tend to lurk around the lower mid table over the past few seasons. In the summer, West Brom really need to invest in some new midfielders, as they have a perfectly good striker in Rondon. There is just no one there to set him up.

West Ham United

Were one of the surprise packages of 2015/16, and thanks to Manchester United's FA Cup win they will be playing in the Europa League next term.

Best player: Dimitri Payet – Payet was a catalyst on the wing for West Ham. The perfect mix of skill and strength the Frenchman showed saw him collect 12 assists, alongside nine goals.

Worst player: Pedro Obiang – After signing from Italian side Sampdoria in the summer, Obiang didn't make the impact he was supposed to. The Spanish midfielder was supposed to partner Cheikh Kouyate in the middle, but did not do much in the 24 games he played.

Best result: Everton 2-3 West Ham – Without a doubt the comeback of the season. West Ham found themselves 2-0 down with only 12 minutes remaining, but goals from Michail Antonio, Diafro Sakho and a last gasp winner from Dimitri Payet saw the Hammers pick up the most unlikely of wins.

Worst result: Tottenham 4-1 West Ham – A Harry Kane double blew West Ham away in this London derby.

Season rating: 8.5/10 – Europa League football now awaits them.

Top stunners of 2015/16 season ...

from facing page

CUCO MARTINA - SOUTHAMPTON v Arsenal, 26/12/15

Arsenal were looking to go top of the Barclays Premier League with a win at St Mary's and they were looking comfortable when Gunners defender Per Mertesacker headed a cross clear but Martina had other ideas as he ran on to the loose ball to rifle home a half-volley from 30 yards with the outside of his right boot to give the Saints the lead.

DELE ALLI - Crystal Palace v Tottenham, 26/01/16

Teenage midfielder Alli netted a brilliant effort as Spurs came from behind to win 3-1 at Selhurst Park. The 19-year-old collected a knock-down from Christian Eriksen on the edge of the Palace box before taking the ball on his thigh, flicking it back over his head and swivelling around to unleash an unstoppable volley into the bottom-left corner.

JAMIE VARDY - LEICESTER v Liverpool, 02/02/16

Table-toppers Leicester were looking to extend their lead at the summit of the Premier League when Vardy looked to latch onto the end of Mahrez's raking



Cuco Martina scored a superb long range goal against Arsenal.

ball into the Liverpool half. As the ball dropped over his shoulder, the England striker sent an angled half-volley from 30 yards that flew past back-peddalling goalkeeper Simon Mignolet and into the roof of the net to send the home fans wild.

HARRY KANE - Tottenham v Arsenal, 05/03/16

An enticing north London derby was finely poised when Toby Alderweireld equalised for the hosts shortly after Arsenal's Francis Coquelin was sent off for two bookable offences. A long ball from Jan Vertonghen was expertly kept in near the corner flag by Alli, who flicked it back to Kane and he curled the ball from the left-hand side of the box into the top-right corner giving goalkeeper David Ospina no chance and Spurs a 2-1 lead.

EDEN HAZARD - Liverpool v Chelsea, 11/05/16

Last season's PFA player of the year had endured a poor nine months by his standards and appeared to pick up a little bit of form when he equalised for Chelsea against Tottenham to secure Leicester the title. He continued on the back of that with a mazy run past three players before curling a right-footed effort into the bottom-left corner from just inside the area.

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Glaucoma	Monday 13th June, 7.00pm – 8.30pm Ms Nishani Amerasinghe Consultant Ophthalmologist
Cataract Macular Degeneration Refractive Lens Surgery	Tuesday 14th June, 6.30pm – 8.00pm Mr David Anderson Consultant Ophthalmologist
Dry Eye Eyelid Surgery	Wednesday 15th June, 6.30pm – 8.00pm Mr Peter Hodgkins Consultant Ophthalmologist
Keratoconus	Wednesday 22nd June, 6.30pm – 8.00pm Mr David Anderson Consultant Ophthalmologist

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Top quotes of the Premier League term

TOP quotes of the 2015-16 Premier League season:

"Claudio Ranieri? Really?" Match of the Day presenter Gary Lineker is unconvinced by Leicester's appointment. Yet this is not the tweet he would come to regret the most.

"I want to continue to build a solid foundation and then arrive in Europe." New Foxes boss Ranieri is optimistic at his first press conference.

"I was unhappy with my medical staff. They were impulsive and naive." Jose Mourinho cooks up a storm over Chelsea physios Eva Carneiro and Jon Fearn.

"I'm the Normal One." An understated Jurgen Klopp introduces himself as Liverpool manager.

"It's like walking into a pub full of girls." Slaven Bilic enjoys West Ham's early-season win at Manchester City.

"I told them, if you keep a clean sheet, I'll buy pizza for everybody." Ranieri tries to goad a shut-out from his defence.

"If Leicester win the @premierleague



Leicester City manager Claudio Ranieri.

"I'll do the first MOTD of next season in just my undies." You're on safe ground there Gary, it's only December.

"Every human being who is grabbed by the hair, only with sex masochism, then it is allowed - but not in other situations." Louis van Gaal's steamy take on Robert Huth's clash with Marouane Fellaini.

"He's a soft German if that's a red card." Sam Allardyce does not entirely agree with Klopp's interpretation of a tackle.

"It happened whilst driving and the phone was in my pocket." Villa's Joleon Lescott pleads his innocence over tweeting a photo of a sports car after their 6-0 home defeat to Liverpool.

"I often use the word 'horny' with my players." Another extract from Fifty Shades of Van Gaal.

"Now it's confirmed, maybe it's a weight off the shoulders." Lescott's reaction to relegation went down well with Villa's fans.

"I'll probably grab a coffee at McDonald's like I normally do." Burnley boss Sean Dyche after winning promotion.

Vince joins exclusiv

JAMES Vince joined a select band of players when he made his England Test debut against Sri Lanka recently.

Here, Tom Brooks looks at the post-war cricketers who have made their England Test debuts while representing the county.

Derek Shackleton

Regarded as one of Hampshire's greatest ever bowlers, Shackleton made his test debut in 1950 against the West Indies. Despite being chosen for his bowling, he top scored for England in the first innings with 42. He only took 1-128 as West Indies posted 558. For the second innings, Shackleton only scored one with the bat, while only bowling a few wicket-less overs.

Shackleton went on to play in six more tests, with the last coming in 1963. He ended with 18 wickets and his best figures were 4-72.

David 'Butch' White

White formed a tremendous bowling partnership with Shackleton in the 60s, which saw the pair both take over in 100 wickets in the 1961 season. This earned him a call up to play for England against Pakistan in 1961 and 1962.

During the first innings of his debut, White took 3-65, but was out first ball when batting. He returned 0-42 in the second innings. White only featured in one Test, in which he took one wicket and got another duck.

Bob Cottam

During the eight-year spell Cottam had at Hampshire, he took over 800 wickets and he was called up to the England squad to tour Pakistan in 1969. On his debut, Cottam claimed 4-50 and 2-35.

Cottam only appeared in three more tests in which he took a further eight wickets and scored 27 runs at an average of 6.75.

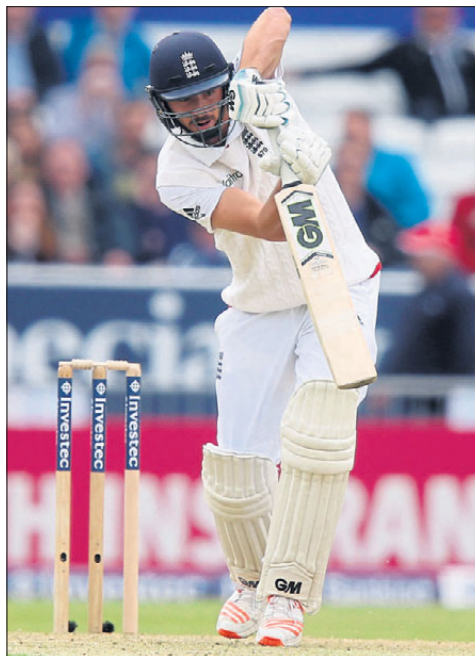
Chris Smith

Smith played for Hampshire from 1980-1991, and during that time he scored over 18,000 runs, with his top score being 217.

In 1983, he became the first Hampshire player for 14 years to make his Test debut while at Hampshire. He endured a torrid debut, out for a golden duck to Richard Hadlee. In the second innings he scored 43.

He only appeared in another seven Tests, finishing with 392 runs and a top score of 91. Surprisingly, he also took three wickets as well, with his best figures being 2-31.

Paul Terry



James Vince, left, in action on his Test debut and, above, Chris Tremlett.



Chris Smith, left, and younger brother Robin Smith, above, both won Test caps.



The batsman who was born in Germany played for Hampshire from 1978-1996, scoring over 16,000 runs. He made his Test debut in 1984 against the West Indies. He only scored eight in the first innings and one in the second.

In his next Test, Terry's arm was broken thanks to a rising delivery from Winston Davis. Terry returned to the crease to face the feared West Indian bowling attack to help Allan Lamb reach a century. Sadly, this was the last involvement Terry had in an England shirt

Robin Smith

The younger brother of Chris spent 21 years with Hampshire from 1982-2003. During that period, the batsman scored over 26,000 runs with his top score being 209 not out.

Smith made his Test debut against West Indies in 1988 and scored 38 during the first innings and 11 in the second.

He became a regular in the England set-up for a further eight years and he accumulated 4,236 runs in 62 Tests.

The former Hampshire captain finished his England career with nine centuries and 28 fifties, with an average of 43.67.

His top score of 175 came in 1994

in the same match that Brian Lara hit a then record breaking 375.

Kevin Pietersen

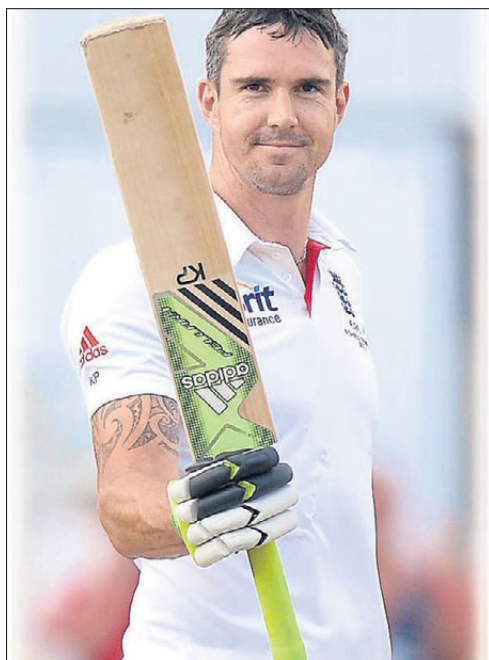
The South African born batsman joined Hampshire in 2005 and was there until 2010.

Pietersen made his debut in opening Test of the 2005 Ashes series where he hit 57 in his first innings, which included two sixes. He added an unbeaten 64 in the second innings.

During that memorable Ashes series, Pietersen scored the most runs out of any player (473) - including

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ve Test debut club



Kevin Pietersen, left, and his former Hampshire colleague Shaun Udal.



Chris Tremlett

in which he got eight wickets. He also proved useful with the bat as he scored 109 runs, with a top score of 33 not out.

Tremlett spent nine years at Hampshire from 2000-2009 before moving to Surrey. It was in 2007, though, when Tremlett was called up for England's Test series against India. He took four wickets on his debut, but made a pair when batting.

During his second test he took three wickets in each innings, with his best figures from the match being 3-12.

In 2010/11 the pace bowler took part in England's 3-1 Ashes series win Down Under. Tremlett bowled well as in the third Test he took 3-63 in the first innings followed by 5-87 in the second.

He played his final Test in the 2013 Ashes. Overall, Tremlett played in 12 tests, taking 50 wickets and scoring 106 runs. His best bowling figures came against Sri Lanka in 2011 when he took 6-48 in the first Test at The Ageas Bowl.

Michael Carberry

After spending two years at both Surrey and Kent, the batsman joined Hampshire in 2006. During that time, Carbs has scored over 12,000 runs, with a high score of 300 not out.

Carberry was selected for England's tour of Bangladesh in 2010, where he opened the batting with Alastair Cook. Carberry scored 30 in the first innings, followed by 34 in the second.

Carberry had to wait a further four years to get his second cap, but it was well worth the wait. He was selected to open the batting during the 2013-14 Ashes tour, in which he played in all five tests. Carberry finished as England's second highest run scorer with 281 runs.

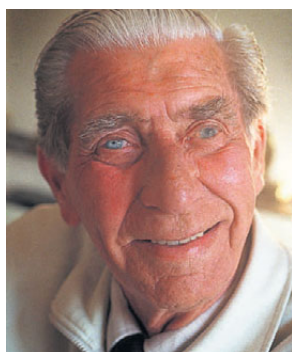
In the six tests that Carberry played, he scored 345 runs at an average of 28.75, with his top score of 60 coming in the second test of the 2013-14 Ashes series.

Shaun Udal

Udal had a 21 year long career in which he took 822 first class wickets, with the majority coming for Hampshire during his 18 year spell at the county. At the age of 36, he made his debut in Pakistan in November 2005.

He only took one wicket during the two innings (1-47 and 0-47). After the tour of Pakistan, Udal toured India with England where he took a mesmerising 4-14, which included the wicket of Sachin Tendulkar, as England levelled the series.

In all, Udal played in four tests,



Derek Shackleton.



Batsman Michael Carberry, left, and Paul Terry.

the 158 in the series-clinching final test at The Oval.

England were 2-1 up in the series and only needed a draw to win the Ashes for the first time since 1986. England only had a lead of six when Pietersen came to the crease but his incredible performance ensured that the urn was England's again.

Pietersen went on to play in 104 test matches for England, with his final one coming in January 2014 against New Zealand. In all, he amassed 8,181 runs, with his top score being 227.

Pietersen also scored 23 centuries and 35 fifties at an average of 47.28.

Tony makes it lucky 13 titles for Britons

TONY Bellew became the 13th British man to hold a world title after he was crowned WBC cruiserweight champion with a thrilling third-round stoppage of Ilunga Makabu at Goodison Park. Here the Sports Pink looks at the other men from Britain who are currently world champions and how they did it:

TYSON FURY (HEAVYWEIGHT): Not many gave Fury a chance against heavyweight kingpin Vladimir Klitschko, but Fury utilised his size advantage to make his opponent look every one of his 39 years and claimed the WBA, WBO and IBF titles with a deserved unanimous decision victory last November.

ANTHONY JOSHUA (HEAVYWEIGHT): Fury's decision to rematch Klitschko instead of facing his mandatory challenger Vyacheslav Glazkov meant he vacated his IBF strap, which Charles Martin clinched by defeating Glazkov. Martin opted to make his first defence against the heavy-handed Joshua, who ruthlessly took his chance in just his 16th professional fight last month.

JAMES DEGALE (SUPER-MIDDLEWEIGHT): DeGale became the first Briton to combine winning an Olympic gold medal with a world title when he travelled to Boston to defeat Andre Dirrell in April last year.

BILLY JOE SAUNDERS (MIDDLEWEIGHT): The unbeaten Saunders earned the WBO strap with a hard-fought majority decision win over London-born Irishman Andy Lee last December.

LIAM SMITH (LIGHT-MIDDLEWEIGHT): The first of the four Smith brothers from Liverpool to win a world title, but surely not the last.



Tony Bellew celebrates beating Ilunga Makabu at Goodison Park.

Liam stopped America's John Thompson inside seven rounds to win the vacant WBO title in October last year.

KELL BROOK (WELTERWEIGHT): The Sheffield fighter travelled to California in August 2014 to snatch the IBF belt from Shawn Porter.

RICKY BURNS (LIGHT-WELTERWEIGHT): Burns had lost three of his last six fights and was declared bankrupt in 2015 but he put himself back in the big time by stopping Italy's Michele Di Rocco in eight rounds in Glasgow on Saturday.

TERRY FLANAGAN (LIGHTWEIGHT): Flanagan claimed the vacant WBO strap when American foe Jose Zepeda suffered a dislocation of his left shoulder and remained on his stool at the end of the second round last July.

ANTHONY CROLLA (LIGHTWEIGHT): Less than a year after fracturing his skull when confronting burglars, Crolla knocked out Colombia's Darleys Perez in the fifth round of their rematch, after their first bout was ruled a controversial draw.

LEE SELBY (SUPER-FEATHERWEIGHT): The slick Welshman put on a masterclass in taking Evgeny Gradovich's IBF belt last May at the O2 Arena, winning a technical decision after the fight was halted in the eighth round due to a cut above the Russian's left eye following a clash of heads.

JAMIE McDONNELL (BANTAMWEIGHT): The Doncaster man won the vacant WBA 'world' title after stopping Tabtimdaeng Na Rachawat of Thailand in the 10th round with a peach of a left hook in May 2014.

LEE HASKINS (BANTAMWEIGHT): He was awarded the IBF belt last November after Randy Caballero was stripped of the title for failing to make weight.

LOCAL CRICKET



Matt Stokes in action. Pic: Martin Gray

TALENTED St Cross Symondians all-rounder Matt Stokes, pictured, was named Player of the Tournament after helping his native Guernsey finish in third place in the six-nation ICC World League Division 5 competition in Jersey.

The Southampton Solent University youngster batted and bowled consistently, scoring 247 runs, including a top score of 82 which paved the way to Guernsey's third-place victory over the Pacific Ocean island of Vanuatu, writes Mike Vimpany.

"The standard of cricket in the tournament was spread out," Stokes admitted.

"Jersey (the winners) and Oman, who beat Ireland in the ICC twenty20 in India earlier this year, were very decent. Vanuatu were almost on a par with us and Nigeria and Tanzania were the weakest teams, so Guernsey were probably positioned right in third place."

Stokes is set to return to the St Cross Symondians side against Lymington today, after which he'll head up to Grace Road to link up with former Hampshire skipper Nic Pothas, who is now Leicestershire's academy director.

Pothas coached Stokes while he was Guernsey's director of cricket and was quick to offer him the opportunity to continue his development in the East Midlands.

"I'm not sure what is happening re: club cricket whether I stay up in Leicester or travel back to play for St Cross Symondians," said Stokes.

Allen's dramatic arrival

EIGHTEEN-year old Lewis Allen burst on to the Southern Premier League scene with a 6-46 return in only his third senior appearance for Old Tauntonians & Romsey, taking the last five Hook & Newnham Basics wickets.

The Peter Symonds College student joined OTR at the start of the season, having taken 30 wickets for Michelmersh & Timsbury in Hampshire League County 3 North cricket in 2015.

A swing bowler, who thrives on late movement, Allen clean bowled three Hook batsmen and trapped a fourth leg before.

Alas, his endeavours gained scant rewards as Hook's 225, built around Jordan Hobday (66) and Harry Came (58), proved far too many for OTs, whose brittle batting continues to haunt them.



Romsey's Lewis Allen

Tom gets a first

THERE'S nothing like finishing your final university exams with a celebration or two

Fareham & Crofton's 21-year old left-hander Tom Kent toasted the end of three years of Geography studies at Reading uni with a maiden hundred.

And it couldn't have been more significant as Fareham needed to halt a two-match losing start in County 1 and beat local rivals Burridge.

They did just that, with Kent carrying his bat for 106 and Oli Southon hitting 61 (after taking 3-53) as Fareham chased down a Burridge total of 232-7 (Oli Wright 70) at Bath Lane to win by two wickets to spare.

There were two centuries at Allotment Road, where Chris Bolton's 111 for Sarisbury Athletic proved in vain as OTs & Romsey pair Paul Longland (103) and Shane Vidler (95) swept the visitors past 259-6 to win by seven wickets.

New boys Bishops Waltham recorded their first CD1 victory against Ventnor.

WINNING RUN MUST END

FIVE clubs have emerged from the opening month of the Hampshire League season unscathed – but one of those unbeaten tags will be removed today.

That's when Alton II host Purbrook at the Jubilee Ground – each looking for a fourth win on the bounce, writes Mike Vimpany.

Alton were relegated with all hands from Premier 3 last season, but they're shaping up nicely this season – with much the same side, which suggests a gulf in standards between the two leagues.

The Brewers sent Shrewton's own three-match winning start up in smoke when they piled up a thumping 296-6, with top three Joe Paul (81), Howard Gadsby (70) and Andy Postles (67) scoring the lion's share.

The run fest didn't continue when Shrewton got to the crease, as only Stuart Cruse (36) (who had earlier taken 4-52) made his mark in a disappointing 139 all out.

Stephen Ball (3-19) did the early damage before Richard Anthony (3-20) cut through the Shrewton belly.

Purbrook's own win over Totton & Eling's young visitors was equally emphatic – the junior Eels being shot out for 94, with James Gurney taking 4-33.

Brad Fingham, back from a short stint at Waterloo, made an unbeaten 33 in Purbrook's eight-wicket success.

Skipper Martin Lee, probably still shocked Purbrook (so often marooned by wet early season weather) have started so well, isn't getting carried away by his team's promising launch.

"We've only played the leagues in the lower half of the table," he warned his squad.

Portsmouth & Southsea's third straight win – by eight wickets – over Ellingham took 24 overs of bowling time and a mere 21 minutes with the bat!



Matt Benfield was on top form as he took five wickets

Matt Benfield (5-17), pictured, proved virtually unplayable as Ellingham were skittled for 58 and were on their way home long before they'd cut the cucumber sarnies after Jack Davies had biffed a nine-four 42.

In total contrast, Hook & Newnham Basics' eventual two-wicket win over Andover II went to the wire, with victory being snatched after 49.4 overs!

Openers Harri (cor) Williams (31) and Alex Thompson (30) gave Andover a start, which Olly Cox (41) improved.

But from 149-2, Andover perhaps might have scored more than 238.

Nonetheless, it proved a real challenge as Hook, on the back foot at 79-4 (Jack Robson 30), rallied through Ben Allnut (50), but still needed partnerships – and 78 more runs – when injured skipper Kevin Light (calf) emerged from the KGV pavilion.

"I managed to add vital runs with

Andrew Darmody (39) and Liam Doran (17) before I was dismissed (29) with what can only be described as a spectacular one-handed diving catch from Andover's Luke Andrews on the boundary in front of the sight screen," said Light.

"It prevented a six and still left us needing 18, but our last pair of Kish Parmar and Glen Williams saw us home – with two balls to go."

Like Hook, newly promoted United Services are probably wondering how they remain unbeaten prior to New Milton's Burnaby Road visit.

They were rushed out for 114 by St Cross Symondians III, who still contrived to lose by seven runs – the match lasting barely 60 of its scheduled 100-overs.

What runs there were came from US pair Aussie Matt Rogers (31), Gary Hounsone (28) and Mark Toogood (23), while St Cross reflected some-

what ruefully on the 13 wides Jamie Burgess sent down as they fell seven short at 107 all out.

Jonathan Parker's new ball spell of 4-16 arguably won it for US, who looked capable of letting it slip when the St Cross tail wagged from 82-8.

Former Bournemouth all-rounder Joe Hall (6-14) was the hero of New Milton's 75-run win over Ropley, who need to beat Ventnor II today to avoid being sucked into the CD1 danger zone.

Despite Lynton Staniford being sidelined – he trod on the ball in the warm-up – they were rushed out for 127, having been a promising 63-1 at one stage.

New Milton's 202 was built around a fourth-wicket stand of 97 between Ashley Collison (56) and William Crossley (38), though Ropley hardly did their cause any good by conceding 33 extras.

LOCAL CRICKET

T20 SET FOR ANOTHER BIG HIT

THE NatWest backed ECB Under-19 Club T20 tournament is up and running again and, if the interest shown by participating youngsters at Calmore Sports on Bank Holiday Monday is mirrored elsewhere across the region in the coming weeks, the competition promises to be a big hit once again.

Twenty-five Hampshire clubs (plus South Wilts across the county border) have entered the competition – the increased number of clubs being split into four geographical groups, *writes Mike Vimpany.*

The cricket authorities are conscious of the significant 'drop out' of young cricketers from 15 years of age upwards and hope this short format will encourage them to continue playing into adulthood.

If this week's triangular t20 launch at Loperwood Park is to be a guide, then it should go well.

A good size crowd watched it rain fours and sixes and see hosts Calmore Cougars celebrate wins over Langley Manor and Totton & Eling Tigers.

Four batsmen – Calmore pair Ben Johns and Matt Taylor, Kieran Hine (Langley Manor), and Totton's Oli Perrin – hit fifties.

Results:

Calmore Cougars 157-7 (Johns 53, Nicholson 32, Spencer 3-14,
Langley Manor 83 (Hatton 28, Johns 3-23, Stainton 3-23)

Calmore Sports won by 74 runs.

Langley Manor 114 (Hine 50, Turner 26)

Totton & Eling Tigers 116-1 (Perrin 50, Cummings 34)

Totton & Eling Tigers won by nine wickets.

Totton & Eling Tigers 137-6 (Darney 37, Mellett 24, Cummings 23)

Calmore Cougars 140-4 (Taylor 51*, Sharmaz 3-18)

Calmore Cougars won by six wickets.

The groupings are:

Central: Fair Oak, Hursley Park, OTs & Romsey, Ropley, Sparsholt, Trojans.

Forest: Bashley (Rydal), Calmore Cougars, Fawley, Langley Manor, Sway, Totton Tigers.

North: Aldershot, Basingstoke & North Hants, Eversley, Grayshott Ghosts, Hook & Newnham Basics, Yateley.

South: Locks Heath, Petersfield, Portsmouth, Portsmouth & Southsea, Steep, Waterloooville.



Calmore Cougars - back (from left): Ryan Lomax, Harry Morgan, Adam Pattison, Kaine Stanton, George Woodhall, Taylor Vane, Matt Taylor.
Front: Ben Johns, Mike Donovan, Jack Nicholson, Tom Pattison.



Langley Manor - back (from left): Dylan Hatton, Sam White, Kieran Hine, Elliot Ponting, Paige Bailey, Jack Rogers, Carl Turner.
Front: Harry Prisk, Will Budd, Jordie Smith, Tom Spencer.



Totton & Eling Tigers - back (from left): Steve Cummings (manager), Blake Darney, Cieran Simpkin, Khajit Sharma, Harry Scurr, Ollie Perrin, Charlie Cummings, Liam Houghton, Jon Moody, Tom Rouse[coach], Simon Moody [assistant manager].
Kneeling: Liam Carty, Leon Bound, Troy Bound, Jack Mellett, Ethan Taylor, Jack Mansbridge.



Ed Ellis has already hit 245 runs this season

Ellis and Stancliffe the early season pace setters as they dominate with bat and ball

LYMINGTON'S Ed Ellis, pictured, continues to out-score everyone in Southern Premier League cricket and currently leads the batting charts with 245 runs, his tally including an opening day 140 at Bashley (Rydal).

Burridge opening bowler Dan Stancliffe is the leading wicket-taker, his early season 11 victim haul including two five-fers.

Leading players:

Premier Division

Batting: Ed Ellis (Lymington) 245, Ben Walker (Havant) 222, Gavin Bailiff (Bashley Rydal) 209, Geoff Dods (Burridge) 180, Tom Arnold (New Milton) 160.

Bowling: Dan Stancliffe (Burridge) 11, Dan Loader (New Milton) 8, Julian Ballinger (Alton) 7, Tabs Farooq (St Cross Symondians) 7, Richard Hindley (Havant) 7.

Division 1

Batting: Inderpal Nandra (Portsmouth) 159, Ryan Covey (Sarisbury Athletic) 142, Basil Akram (Sarisbury Athletic) 138, Mitch Stokes (Basingstoke) 134.

Bowling: Sushant Balajee (Rowledge) 10, Suman Ganguly (Liphook & Ripsley) 9, George Keeley (Rowledge) 8, Lewis Allen (OTs & Romsey) 8, Dom Clutterbuck (Bournemouth) 8, Rhodes Franklin (Hook & Newnham Basics) 8.

Division 2

Batting: Ed Boyd (Trojans) 239, Dave Banks (Sparsholt) 208, Tam Goodrich (Calmore Sports) 197, Rob Pittman (South Wilts II) 152, Tom Allam (Tichborne Park) 151.

Bowling: Tony Richman (Paultons) 9, Dave Streater (Fawley) 9, Jamie Donaldson (Trojans) 8.

Division 3:

Batting: Andrew Galliers (Havant II) 197, Ed Kemp (Fair Oak) 187, James Scutt (Waterlooville) 169, Lee Harrop (Gosport Borough) 141, Dave Castle (Langley Manor) 140, Tom Hockenhull (Fair Oak) 139.

Bowling: Guy Layman (Lymington II) 9, Asad Abbas (Fair Oak) 9, Jamie Aldridge (St Cross Symondians II) 8, Bothwell Chapungu (Hursley Park) 8.

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